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Caspian Sea Littoral States' Prime Ministers Meet

LD1510131793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1201 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] At a joint session in Astrakhan, Prime Ministers of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia, and Turkmenistan have agreed to set up a council to coordinate economic cooperation in the Caspian region.

Announcing this at a news conference late Thursday night [14 October] after the session, Russian Premier Victor Chernomyrdin reported that ways of protecting the Caspian natural wealth would be discussed at the next CIS Prime Ministers Conference.

Explaining why there was not a delegation from Iran at the meeting, Chernomyrdin noted that before inviting foreign partners, Commonwealth Premiers had decided to formulate a common view on the Caspian problem. "Once that is done, a meeting will without doubt be arranged with representatives of Iran, a country without which any agreement on the Caspian sea is inconceivable," Chernomyrdin said.

Kazakh Prime Minister Sergey Tereschenko told Interfax that his cabinet has not prepared a plan to develop deposits on the Caspian shelf yet. At the same time, he pledged that the exploration of the shelf would be explored and supervised by an intergovernmental council on oil and gas to be formed under CIS auspices.

Azerbaijan's Premier Surat Guseynov, for his part, informed journalists that the "Lookoil" Concern of Russia would be asked to take part in developing the oil shelf on the territory on Azerbaijan.

Results of Conference Detailed

NC1610160193 Baku TURAN in English 1215 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Baku October 16 (TURAN)—Press-service of the cabinet distributed information about meeting of the governments of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan held October 14 in Astrakhan.

The conference was devoted to the problems of efficient use of biologial reserves, exploitation of oil-fields, protection of environment and another questions.

In the result of the conference the governments signed communique. In line with that document the parties intend to coordinate their activities within the framework of common programme on security of reservations and natural resources, efficient use of biological reserves and their restoration, using mineral reserves of the sea, defining the waterways with account of ecological safety and settling the problems concerned [with the] increase of sea level.

The parties told that it would be advisable to create interstate organ on Caspian Sea.

Next meeting of the leaders of the governments of Caspian basin is due to take place November 1993.

The matter on establishing new juridical status of Caspian Sea has arisen in connection with break-up of Soviet Union. If earlier economic interests of Iran and USSR were here on the foreground, now the interests of all five states of the basin should be taken into account.

In this connection Azerbaijani government has created expert commission to set juridical status of the Caspian Sea. As expert commission thinks all agreements on Caspian Sea should be based on the convention defining its juridical status.

Despite the absence of convention the parties have held the meeting because biological reserves of Caspian Sea were under the threat of exhaustion.

The matter on defining fish waters of the states has become the subject to discussion. Russia forwarded a proposal on introducing 10-mile fishing zone outside of which all reserves were common.

In case if this resolution of Russia being adopted, Azerbaijan having 70 per cent of all reserves of sprats, will lose 7 of 9 sprat fisheries, which are in its waters at present. In this case ships of another states can do fishing directly close to Azeri side without any difficulties. Annual losses of Azerbaijan will make about 25 mln. [million] dollars.

Azeri delegation proposed to define fishing zone of 40 miles. At last there were different opinions on this matter and none of the documents were adopted.

As observers think Russia's proposal on defining fishing zones was the touchstone to defining territorial waters of the Caspian states. As it is known, Russia offers to introduce 12-mile zone of territorial waters. In this case part of sea oil-fields will be outside of territorial waters of Azerbaijan.

Leaders Disagree on Boundaries

LD1610194393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1800 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Heads of governments of states bordering on the Caspian sea—Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan—have failed to agree on borders of their territorial waters at their meeting in Astrakhan. This was stated to a RIA correspondent in the press service of Azerbaijan's Prime Minister. Azerbaijan insists on a 40-mile zone, whilst other Caspian countries propose to limit each country's waters by 10 to 20 miles.

[Moscow Ostankino Television First channel Network in Russian on 1800 at 16 October adds the following report read by Nelli Petkova:

["Russian Deputy Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin completed his working visit to Astrakhan and returned to Moscow today. In addition to signing a communique on preserving biological resources of the Caspian sea, the

heads of state of the Caspian region—Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan—agreed at their meeting in Astrakhan to set up a joint coordinating committee to deal with all Caspian problems.

["Following the visits to the area by Russian leaders—the president visited it a few months ago, and the premier has just returned—the government is drawing up a special resolution on Astrakhan Oblast."]

Russia, Belarus, Lithuania Officials on Council of Europe

LD1710185793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1450 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Interview with Anatoliy Adamishin, first deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation; Stanislav Shushkevic, chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus; and Algirdas Brazauskas, president of the Republic of Lithuania by correspondent Viktor Lyubovtsev; on the occasion of the summit of the Council of Europe; from Vienna; from the "Panorama" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Lyubovtsev] A summit meeting of the Council of Europe was held in Austria's international palace in Vienna. I have to admit that I have never seen so many presidents in one hall—moreover, a rather modest one in terms of size—the heads of state from all corners of Europe.

More than 30 state leaders have come to the Austrian capital for the first summit of the Council of Europe, an international organization which has existed since 1949. On its agenda were the problem of strengthening democracy in our continent, first and foremost in its eastern part, and the protection of human rights and ethnic minorities.

President Yeltsin was also invited to Vienna but in reply, he announced that he would take part in such meeting only once Russia had been accepted into the Council of Europe. Our country has been waiting for this acceptance for some time now. As early as May last year Moscow made an official application to join the Council. The decision on this issue, however, continues to be postponed although, since then, Romania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, and Estonia from among the former Soviet republics have been accepted. Although a formal reason for the postponement does exist—Russia still does not have a democratic constitution—one cannot help thinking that our country ought not to be kept standing outside the classroom like a kid at school waiting for permission to come in and sit down. It seems that those taking part in the Vienna summit understood this as well, especially because it was held immediately after the tragic events in Moscow and the subject of Russia could be heard in nearly every speech.

[Adamishin] I myself would like to have an answer to this question. We are told in the meantime that it will be soon, soon. On the whole, however, the affair is becoming a bit embarrassing. We have been knocking on the door of the Council of Europe for a year and a half and yet we are told: wait, wait. At the same time other countries are being accepted; these countries, in my opinion, do not differ from Russia in any positive way as far as democratic standards are concerned. We say quite openly that we can get on fine without the Council of Europe on the whole, but it would be better if we were members of the Council of Europe.

[Shuskevich] I think that Belarus could be admitted to the Council of Europe today. European standards, however, cannot be applied to the territory of Russia—the territory of Belarus, I mean—without a certain degree of conditionality, because our long prehistory compels us in places to refrain from ordinary, primitive, and banal steps, which is what the norms of human rights are considered.

[Lyubovtsev] Unlike Russia, Belarus, or Ukraine, Lithuania has already become a full-fledged member of the Council of Europe.

[Brazauskas] I think that this summit will somehow clear up the situation and will show all of Europe how we are building democratic relations for ourselves, how we are establishing democratic institutions of power, and how we are working now and how we live.

[Lyubovtsev] In a message to the Vienna summit, Boris Yeltsin once again confirmed Russia's desire to become a full member of the Council of Europe—a member of the family of democratic countries in our continent. The latest events in Russia, for all their dramatic aspects, have shown that our people have made a choice and that the reform process in Russia is irreversible.

Peacekeeping Role in Transcaucasus Remains 'Ambiguous'

PM1510151793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 2

[Article by Alan Kasayev: "CIS—A Cure-All? All Three Transcaucasian States Haved Joined the Commonwealth"]

[Text] The end of last week was marked by rather unexpected events in the turbulent life of the Transcaucasus and Russia. All three Transcaucasian countries' leaders were simultaneously received by Boris Yeltsin in Moscow. Whereas the Armenian president has been a committed supporter of CIS membership from the start and has no significant opposition in the country on the matter, E. Shevardnadze had said only a few days ago that Georgia would not be joining the Commonwealth. Newly elected Azerbaijan President Geydar Aliyev had talked ever since his elevation of the need for CIS membership, and he also took this step without any particular resistance in parliament.

An official communique has not been published on the results of the talks, in which Prime Minister Viktor

Chernomyrdin, Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev participated, although it has been ascertained from sources close to the Armenian and Georgian leaderships that at the suggestion of the Russian side, in order to ensure uninterrupted freight deliveries from European states and from Russia to the Transcaucasus and vice versa, Russian Defense Ministry military units will be enlisted to guard railroads, oil and gas pipelines, and highways. President Yeltsin again received assurances of the safety of servicemen engaged in carrying out these operations.

The next day the Russian and Georgian general staff chiefs signed a whole series of important documents, including an agreement on the status of Russian forces in Georgia. It will determine the juridical base for their presence there. Nothing was said about the time frame for the Russian Federation servicemen's presence in Georgia. So Russia has officially been given the opportunity to protect its own strategic interests in the Transcaucasus, which includes ensuring the safety of the Russian-speaking population. On the other hand, the lack of a time frame for the forces' presence in the document places the Russian leadership in an ambiguous position, as Shevardnadze hinted immediately after the meeting with Yeltsin, when he said that "Georgia could quit the CIS at any moment, if we take exceoption to something in its activity."

According to the new Russian foreign policy blueprint promulgated by Minister Kozyrev at the UN General Assembly session in New York, Russia has offered its services as a mediator in peace talks between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh and between Georgia and Abkhazia. It is clear that Russian Armed Forces' peacemaking contingents are also to be the guarantors of the settlement. Financial and economic questions were discussed as well. It is hard to say how realistic the plans are. Certain factors that are still operating and are not contributing to stabilization give rise to doubts. For instance, central authority in Georgia has been seriously weakened and is not in control of the situation in the west of the country or in Ajaria, yet this is precisely where the most important routes are. Moreover the latest incident, involving the killing of five Russian servicemen in the vicinity of the city of Samtredia, has still not been resolved, indeed there has been nothing approaching a reasonable explanation.

By no means everything is clear in relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. It appears that Nagorno-Karabakh has become de facto an independent entity in international politics, and Armenian-Azerbaijani relations can no longer be regulated without the participation of its representatives. Approximately the same can be said of Abkhazia, which would be unlikely to accept the thesis that is being plugged of Georgian territorial integrity within the borders of the former Georgian SSR. The reality is that Abkhazia and Karabakh, as well as South Ossetia, achieved autonomy at the cost of a great deal of blood, theirs and other people's, and will now fight for recognition of this fact. An attempt to reverse the situation would mean new rivers of blood. Such a stance is unlikely to be appreciated by the Russian leadership, which has made its desire for a peaceful solution of questions in the Transcaucasus abundantly clear.

Leaders Evaluate Chances of Joining NATO

MK1610131193 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 66, 16 Oct 93 (signed to press 16 Oct) p 5

[Ivan Andreyev report based on materials of the BALTFAX news agency under general headline: "Counties of Central Europe Look Forward to Joining NATO. So Do Baltic States."]

[Text] The Baltic states appear to be seriously intent on joining NATO. The leaders of all three countries, however, do not rule out the possibility that a lot of obstacles may crop up on this path. Latvian President Ulmanis believes that his country should become a NATO member at least simultaneously with Russia. He said this on 11 October at the meeting of European heads of government. "If Russia becomes a member of the North Atlantic Alliance, this will give its neighbors a feeling of peace and stability. The interests of Europe will be better served by speeding up Russia's joining the alliance, not putting it off. Otherwise, the situation in Europe would be unpredictable and dangerous. If the Baltic states try to overtake Russia in this matter, tensions in relations between the Baltics and Russia will only heighten," Mr. Ulmanis said.

Assessing the possibility of Lithuania's joining NATO, President Algirdas Brazauskas said that despite the republic's ardent desire to join the North Atlantic Alliance, many "European leaders are skeptical about Lithuania's chances." Stressing that Lithuania's membership in NATO will in no way affect its friendly relations with Russia, Mr. Brazauskas noted that it would take Lithuania a great deal of time and effort to become a member of the organization.

Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar said on 13 October that his recent meeting with the prime ministers of NATO countries convinced him that the countries of Central and East Europe would not be admitted to the North Atlantic alliance any time soon. "To all appearances, NATO will follow suit of the EC, which adds countries not by granting them full members status, but by concluding various sorts of agreements."

Lithuanian President Brazauskas told journalists that NATO leaders nonetheless invited the three Baltic presidents to Brussels in the second half of January 1994.

The Baltic states' military plans in no small measure also affect the sphere of Russian interests. According to Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin, the issue of expanding NATO's membership has become overly emotional, whereas one should join a military alliance for serious political reasons, not matters of prestige.

Preparations Under Way for New CIS Newspaper

LD1710110393 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0800 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] CIS experts have prepared a draft decision of the Commonwealth heads of government to form a new newspaper—THE COMMONWEALTH AND INDEPENDENT STATES COMMON MARKET. INTERFAX reported on Saturday [16 October] that this weekly supplement to Yegor Yakovlev's daily, THE GENERAL NEWSPAPER, will appear in 1994. Its initial circulation will be 100,000 copies. Commonwealth countries are expected to allocate from their budgets 950 million Russian rubles and 200,000 American dollars to the needs of the newspaper.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 16 Oct

LD1610110893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1054 GMT 16 Oct 93

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow October 16 (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian press is increasingly focusing on the coming general elections to a Federal Assembly (new parliament). Newspapers in Their saturday issues front-page materials dealing with this topic.

Under the headline "Main Pro-Presidential Party Will Rally Behind the 'Choice of Russia' Bloc", the NEZAVISMAYA GAZETA analyses the formation of electoral political blocs.

It notes that "the executive power has a chance to participate in the coming elections with two parties—'Choice of Russia' (eds: leaders Yegor Gaydar, Gennadiy Burbulis and Mikhail Poltoranin) and the Russian Unity and Accord Party (leader Sergey Shakhray).

The ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI newspaper uses the words "Russia will not survive the second illiterate parliament" by Petr Filippov, vice- president of the Association of Privatised and Private Enterprises, as a heading for several articles on this topic.

"Now that there are no parties in the country with a developed structure and their own electorates, the danger is high that people responsible to nobody will be elected to a Federal Assembly," Filippov holds.

"One gets an impression that functionaries rather than professionals dominate all the parties." In his opinion, "running candidates must be professionals in macroeconomics or law", while businessmen should take an active part in the elections.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI quotes an opinion by Finance Minister Boris Fedorov as saying that the principle of division of powers resulted in the outflow of "a considerable and best part of parliament to the executive power".

It would be unreasonable to block these people from the elections to the Federal Assembly, the minister claims. He favours the expediency of combining work both in executive structures of power and at the future federal assembly for some people. This point of view is also supported by Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in the same newspaper.

The TRUD newspaper quotes leader of the Russian Democratic Party Nikolay Travkin who says that "the present elections will not give full-fledged parliamentarism to the country but a transition version of a kind. But it should be used fruitfully for future state construction".

The KRASNAYA ZVEZDA newspaper believes that "the 'Choice of Russia' bloc may count on a parliamentary majority (up to 60 per cent)".

Referring to sources at the Central Electoral Commission, the newspaper notes that the list of nation-wide parties, movements and associations having the right to participate in the elections (eds: there are 91 of them), will be slightly changed.

The newspaper notes that protests are voiced by "numerous organisations 'thrown overboard'". KRASNAYA ZVEZDA calls attention of its readers to the fact that "proposals are becoming more insistent on holding other elections—presidential. Future events will show how serious they are".

"Democracy should be strict and professional to fulfil its social function," claims the Russian president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov. His article is featured by ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI.

"A democratic Russia is unthinkable without firm order," he stresses. "The Soviet constitution was the greatest absurdity of post-August democracy," Kostikov holds. "The constitution gave a dangerous slant to all democratic construction. As a result, we got not a streamlined system of power after August 1991 but a political babylonian tower which collapsed after the first earthquake tremors."

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA devotes its Saturday review to the topic of the week—Yeltsin's visit to Japan. "The visit signified a new period of our relations with the West," the newspaper notes. "A period devoid of the pleasure of mutual recognition.

"A period when alluring statements that the West and the East are not enemies any longer, lose their sense. We now witness a stage of difficult and painstaking work to find a balance of mutual interests and to remove real contradictions. It is a period of establishing mutual relations between normal states which do not confront each other."

Newspapers continue to give much space to the tragic events in Moscow in early October. Under the headline "Did the White House Become a Common Grave?", the KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA newspaper carries an article on an investigation conducted by the newspaper's reporters on the number of the fallen at the parliament building.

TRUD runs a review of reports on hunting for mutineers who escaped from law enforcement officers.

Pacific Fleet Ship Dumping Nuclear Waste in Sea of Japan

LD1710083393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0352 GMT 17 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Varlamov]

[Text] Tokyo, 17 Oct—This morning, the Russian vessel TNT-27, which belongs to the Pacific Fleet, began dumping liquid radioactive waste in the Sea of Japan. An ITAR-TASS correspondent received confirmation of this from the Japanese department of the international environmental organization Greenpeace, whose ship has been following the TNT-27 continuously since yesterday. It discovered this naval "truck," previously used by the Pacific Fleet for the removal of nuclear waste, leaving the Pavlovsk submarine base near Vladivostok.

More on Dumping Radioactive Waste

LD1710161393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0733 GMT 17 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Varlamov]

[Text] Tokyo, 17 Oct—Following a year-long interval, the Russian Navy has again begun dumping radioactive waste in the Sea of Japan. This occurred early this morning approximately 150 km south of Nakhodka, an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the Japanese branch of the international environmental protection organization, Greenpeace, which is in permanent radio contact with its observation ship on duty off the shore of Russia's Maritime region.

After discovering the towed tender TNT-27—which used to be used in the Pacific fleet to remove nuclear waste—as it left the nuclear submarine base in Pavlovsk, near Vladivostok, the crew of that Greenpeace ship spent over 24 hours monitoring the TNT-27 and the Pegas, the radiological survey ship escorting it, and following them to the dumping area.

Coming as close as 15 meters to the "sea truck", which is capable of taking on board up to 900,000 tonnes of liquid, the ecologists, in an inflatable boat, tested the water and air, established that the radiation was 10 times higher than background levels, and came to the conclusion that liquid waste was already pouring into the sea through a valve in the bottom of the ship.

Moreover, six to seven metal containers of various sizes were noticed on the deck of TNT-27 with the characteristic black warning sign on a yellow background, showing that there was a radioactive substance inside. They were located along the rails leading off board the ship and, Greenpeace believes, had also been prepared for dumping. The organization's experts believe that such containers were previously used by the Soviet and then the Russian Navy for burying solid waste.

According to Greenpeace activists, the liquid being discharged into the sea is most likely a cooling or flushing element for atomic reactors from submarines. It may be that the need for further burial at sea has arisen partly because of the continuing dismantling of power units from obsolete submarines.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the Japanese Foreign Ministry Department for Nuclear Weapons and Disarmament Control that the Japanese embassy in Moscow was trying to check the accuracy of the environmentalists' information, but was not expecting a reply before Monday or Tuesday. The Japanese side had not been in contact with the Pacific Fleet.

"If the information is confirmed," a spokesman for the Japanese Foreign Ministry said in a telephone conversation, "Tokyo will make representations to the Russian Federation Government, and will make a statement on the need for the immediate and total cessation of sea burial of any radioactive waste. The Japanese side has already expressed its negative stance on this issue on more than one occasion, including during the Russian-Japanese summit meeting in Tokyo on 11-13 October."

Navy Receives 'Permission' To Dump

LD1710224193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1737 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Russia's Navy received the permission to empty radioactive waste in the Sea of Japan from the Environmental Protection Ministry, the deputy chief of the Naval Staff, Vice-Admiral Yuriy Kaysin, told Interfax.

The emptying took place in Area No.9, not in Area No.6, as it was reported earlier, he said. The permission from the Environmental Protection Ministry makes it possible to empty 1700 cubic meters of waste. However the Navy intends to drop only 900 cubic meters, said Admiral Kaysin.

The admiral denied the allegations that there is solid radioactive waste on board the tanker. "There is only liquid waste on the TNT-27," he said.

The radioactivity of the waste comprises 1.28 microcurie per one liter. The aggregate activity of beta-gamma rays is 1.1 curie per one liter.

The emptying is conducted under a schedule approved by the Environmental Protection Ministry. The document provides for ensuring the safety of transportation to the place of emptying, for notifying the regional fishing authorities about the time and place of emptying in advance, for conducting the emptying when the ship's course is perpendicular to the direction of regular currents, and the like.

Security for the vessel's crew was ensured under the rules for transporting radioactive waste approved by the USSR government. At the time of the emptying representatives from the Navy's chemical service and from the Environmental Protection Ministry were on board the vessel, said Admiral Kaisin.

According to him, provisional rules for emptying liquid radioactive waste into the sea worked out by the Navy's chemical security department are being coordinated with the various structures of Russia's gover..nent.

No 'Ecological Catastrophe'

LD1810042593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0225 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Karlov]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Oct—"The one-time dumping of radioactive waste into the sea was carried out with the knowledge of the IAEA and Russian Government structures. This is the first action of this kind for two years and will not cause any ecological catastrophe," Admiral Georgiy Gurinov, commander of the Russian Federation Pacific Fleet told an ITAR-TASS correspondent. He made this statement in connection with a report which has appeared in the mass media that Pacific Fleet ships had dumped radioactive waste into the sea.

Admiral Gurinov also reported that all tankage for radioactive waste had been overfilled, which could lead to the shut down of nuclear reactors. Gurinov stressed that when Britain and France, for example, signed the London Convention regulating the burial of industrial and radioactive waste at sea, they had stipulated their right to dump such waste in the sea until 2018. Gurinov noted that Russia should also adhere to that condition.

Dumping Questioned

LD1810080393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0554 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[Text] Vladivostok October 18 TASS—On October 16, a vessel of the Russian Pacific Fleet dumped liquid nuclear waste in the Sea of Japan in accordance with a special permission of the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources of the Russian Federation.

The waste was dumped from the auxiliary vessel TNT-27 some 150 kilometres off the Russian coast to the south of Nakhodka.

This action was undertaken in strict accordance with the special regulation for this sort of work in the presence of the ministry's official Andrey Pechkurov, who arrived from Moscow for the purpose, ITAR-TASS learned from the press service of the Pacific Fleet. The degree of radioactivity of the dumped waste is in accord with the established standards and poses no danger for the environment.

TNT-27 was accompanied by a hydrographical ship Tof Pegas, whose supersensitive sensors made it possible to conduct an indepth analysis of the water and degree of its radioactivity in the area where the dumping took place at every stage of the operation.

Nonetheless, some questions remain to be answered, according to local observers. If there was nothing prejudicial about this action, why was it concealed from the public? Why were the media and the Far Eastern environmental services not notified in advance? These questions are awaiting clarification.

Yeltsin's Japan Visit Step Toward New Relations

OW1510123'93 Moscow Radio Moscow in Japanese 1100 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Yuriy Solton commentary]

[Text] Good intentions and a willingness to try to understand each other—these were conspicuous at the Russo-Japanese summit talks. For the first time, the word "partnership" was used in the joint declaration endorsed by the two leaders. Also, it was stressed in official documents that the two nations will promote greatly improved relations as neighboring countries. The two leaders also discussed the issue of rights over the south Kuril Islands, a delicate problem pending between the two countries, in a way different from the past. Although these islands were seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II, Tokyo considers they belong to Japan. While maintaining their basic stands on the issue, the leaders of Russia and Japan made some changes. They agreed to shift from confrontation to cooperation in seeking measures acceptable to both countries to resolve the issue. This agreement will enable Russia and Japan to make progress in other areas.

The two leaders also decided to speed up work to conclude a peace treaty, something which has been nonexistent between the two countries since the end of World War II. Of course, this decision will affect the territorial issue. The two leaders agreed to hold talks on a regular basis to observe progress of the work. Besides summit talks, they also agreed to hold a meeting of foreign ministers on a regular basis. I believe President Yeltsin's firm determination to promote democratic and economic reforms in Russia largely contributed to efforts to bring the Russo-Japanese summit to a successful conclusion. The Tokyo declaration recognizes that the democratic and economic reforms underway in the Russian Federation are of tremendous significance not only for the people of Russia but also for the entire world.

The economic cooperation between the two countries, which is stipulated in the agreements signed, will certainly help to promote reforms in Russia. Also, it was made clear during the summit that Russia and Japan hold almost the same positions on many issues concerning security in the Asia-Pacific region. In particular, the two countries share a common view on issues concerning nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and prevention of regional conflicts.

President Yeltsin's visit to Japan brought about a new psychological relationship between the peoples of the

two countries. Russia is not responsible for crimes committed by the former Soviet Union under totalitarianism. Nonetheless, President Yeltsin apologized, in the name of Russia, for detention of Japanese prisoners of war in Siberia from the bottom of his heart, and for humanitarian reasons, which impressed the Japanese people. Prior to his return to Moscow, President Yeltsin, reviewing the summit, said Russia and Japan had tried to understand each other without biased views and had found the courage to respect each other's positions for the first time in several decades.

In short, the president's visit to Tokyo was a starting point for Russia and Japan to promote a new relationship. The two nations have just taken the first step toward that new relationship, and this first step is important.

'Major Step' in Improving Ties

LD1510144593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1351 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Oct—During the recent visit to Japan by Boris Yeltsin, an understanding was reached that the long road of developing relations between the two countries needs to be begun with a positive step. The visit was a major step in that direction.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev expressed this opinion at a meeting with journalists held here today.

He said that the visit, in essence, had unblocked the problem of Russian-Japanese links and transferred them from the stage of blind confrontation to a level of constructive and calm discussion.

Now the sides will develop the talks process.

It is important to note, the minister said, that the two sides at the talks in Japan "had preserved their principled positions" on many issues, although naturally there are "healthy elements of different interpretations," since in Tokyo they came to a certain compromise. However, Kozyrev believes, this is "a normal situation since compromise implies the finding of a formula for action which presupposes movement forward without necessarily giving in to each other." In this case, the Russian minister stressed, no concessions were made by either side under pressure, and that is the main success of the visit.

Yeltsin Apologies 'Key' to Success

PM1510134793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 1

[Pavel Shinkarenko report: "Steps Toward Spiritual Reconciliation. At the Meeting in Tokyo Measures Are Projected To Overcome the Stagnation in Russian-Japanese Relations"]

[Text] "Russia and Japan are now united by common values—freedom, democracy, the supremacy of law, and respect for basic human rights." This statement, delivered by Boris Yeltsin at the concluding press conference in Tokyo, expresses, in our view, the major outcome of the Russian-Japanese summit talks. Now, when, in the words of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, "a new chapter is opening in bilateral relations," our peoples can continue a more active dialogue, including at the highest level: The head of the Japanese Government received an invitation to visit Moscow at a time it finds convenient.

What was the key to the success of the talks?

For all the importance of economic links, which both great powers badly need, in the given instance the main dynamo for progress was the political factor—above all Russia's recognition of the existence of the territorial question in relations with Japan and Boris Yeltsin's expressions of apology for the tragic fate of around 600,000 Japanese prisoners of war who were held in Siberia contrary to international laws for several years after the end of the war. One in 10 of them remains on Russian soil. "Boris Yeltsin provoked a sensation in the Japanese capital by stating that Russia will abide by all treaties entered into by the former USSR," Britain's THE TIMES writes. "During the first meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa," France's LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS stresses, "Boris Yeltsin recognized the territorial question exists. This was a first step which Tokyo considered necessary."

Of course, in the opinion of many international observers, the Russian president did not have to make these statements: Formally, Russia is not responsible for the actions of the leaders of the former USSR. But how could there be any question of trust between the new leaders if, having decided to clear away the obstructions of the cold war, they begin to hide behind transparent and brittle dugouts? This "ostrich-like" diplomacy was essayed in April 1991 by the first Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, who expressed only regret over the violation of the rights of Japanese prisoners of war, but his attempt, as we know, not only failed to relieve the tension, but actually widened the gulf between Moscow and Tokyo. The Russian leader did not go down the same slippery path. Stating that the territorial question must be resolved, and delivering apologies for the inhuman actions of the totalitarian regime toward the prisoners, he gave official Tokyo an opportunity to reciprocate, and the Japanese premier responded to this proposal. "I value highly these statements by the president as creating the basis for spiritual reconciliation between the Japanese and Russian peoples," Morihiro Hosokawa stated.

The consequences of this dialogue will be known later, but the result is already obvious today: In Tokyo alone 18 agreements were signed, covering a wide spectrum of bilateral relations—from the joint development of oil reserves on the Sakhalin shelf and space research, to the extension of cultural relations and the institution of new consulates general. And the prospects are still wider. "Until now the territorial problem stood like a wall in

the way of developing economic cooperation between our countries," Tetsuo Sato, president of the Japanese-Russian Trade Association said, "but now part of this wall has been destroyed, and Russian-Japanese economic links will develop."

Kozyrev Says Ties With Japan Not Dependent on Islands

LD1510154793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] At a meeting in the Moscow press club with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, our observer Viktor Levin, quoting an article in today's IZVESTIYA which says that the Japanese Government is continuing to adhere to the principle of the indivisibility of politics and economics, asked the minister to clarify the situation. In reply to this question Andrey Kozyrev said:

[Begin Kozyrev recording] To a large extent, the sides preserved their principled positions, but in the spirit of Nina Andreyeva, principled positions can be raised to the level of something which interferes with real life but, on the other hand, it is possible, while preserving one's principled convictions, to find a way of cooperating, of getting on with life, and of resolving many urgent questions. It is this second option which was chosen during the visit to Japan.

As far as the principle of the indivisibility of politics and economics is concerned, this is purely a Japanese matter; it is a question of their political terminology and their political views. Even during this visit, I, for example, heard several different wordings, for example: the indivisibility of politics and economics, or the balanced development of relations, which would seem to be rather different from the indivisibility of politics and economics.

What is important for us is something different. What is important for us is that the harsh pressure, the harsh linkage that used to exist—if you give us the islands there can be cooperation, if you do not give us the islands there can be no question of cooperation in any other sphere—this clearly no longer exists. There is a normal dialogue about the disputed problem of the islands and at the same time 17 documents have been signed on cooperation on a whole range of specific spheres. How this is described in Japanese: indivisibility of politics and economics, or balance of cooperation, or something else again, that is a matter for Japan, itself. [end recording]

Further on Kozyrev's Remarks

MK1510130693 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 3

[Sergey Tsekhmistrenko report: "Results of Yeltsin's Visit to Japan. Territorial Problem Takes Back Seat"]

[Excerpts] The first visit to Japan by the Russian president is now history. Left behind are the difficult talks with the polite but unyielding Japanese, speeches replete with promises and radiant prospects, receptions where one frequently heard the traditional Japanese "kampai" toast (from the mouth of the Russian president among other people). Now the two countries are to act on the 18 signed documents. While the results of the visit are yet to be finally comprehended, its economic results (unlike political ones) must rather disappoint the Russian side, which had hoped for a fundamental breakthrough precisely in this area. In the opinion of Sergey Tsekhmistrenko, who has returned from Tokyo, there was no breakthrough because Japanese businessmen still have faint interest in a full-scale exploration of the Russian market. [passage omitted]

In a private discussion during the summit, Andrey Kozyrev advised that neither Moscow nor Tokyo were able to depart from their own principled approaches to the islands problem. Be that as it may, the sides opted for the only acceptable way—not to act like the two proverbial "rams on the bridge." Now the working group that is being set up will have to sift through the mountains of arguments piled up over half a century in order to solve the issue "from the point of view of legality and fairness." Mr. Kozyrev did not elaborate on how the Russian side was going (if at all) to defend the fairness of its possession of the Southern Kurils. It is a feather in the cap of the agency he heads that references to the islands' having been discovered by Russian explorers are no longer current: Kunashir and Khabomaii are seen clearly in fair weather from Hokkaido.

At any rate, although the minister did mention the "pulling out from the confrontational blind alley," the compromise formula recorded in the Tokyo declaration on continuing the talks on the basis of the four islands being identified by their names cannot be described as more than a palliative. The final solution of the territorial issue was postponed only for a time. One gets the impression that Russia is not averse to yielding the initiative to Tokyo. Talking with your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent on the plane bound back to Moscow, the high-ranking Russian diplomat hinted that Russia was not going to hamper Japan's economic expansion on the Southern Kurils, regarding it as one of the prerequisites of further "imperceptible" transition of the island to Japanese jurisdiction. He only regretted that still continuing to "insist on formalizing the transfer legally," the Japanese not only do not make haste to explore the South Kuril free economic zone, but they did not even have any program for developing the islands should they take them over.

Unconfirmed Rumors of Russian Missile Builders Hired by PRC

LD1510130193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1231 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Spirin]

[Text] Beijing October 15 TASS—Occasional statements, made in the United States, that thousands or

even more Russian specialists in missile building have been recruited by China have not been confirmed so far.

"We do not have and have never had such information," Valeriy Levshunov, a high-ranking Russian expert from the Department for the Defence Complex and Conversion under the Russian Government, told ITAR-TASS here today at the Aviation Expo/China-93 exhibition.

Yuriy Nikitin, deputy head of the main department of the aircraft building industry, is of the same opinion.

Commenting on the recent report of WALL STREET JOURNAL about one thousand missile builders from previously secret Russian research centres, who are allegedly working already for China and to each of whom the Chinese military-industrial complex is allegedly paying 2,000 dollars a month and providing a car for his personal use, he said: "All matters related to missile building are handled by the Committee for Military-Technical Cooperation, and control is reliable there."

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Gives Briefing

Says Christopher To Visit 21 Oct

LD1510135293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1322 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Staroselskiy and Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow October 15 TASS—The United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher will pay a working visit to Russia from October 21 to 23 on the invitation from Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Kozyrev, a spokesman for the Russian foreign minister Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing here today.

Kozyrev and Christopher will discuss a variety of items on the Russian-American agenda. "There is an understanding that the ministers will focus on topical international issues. In addition they will concentrate on priorities in bilateral relations in light of the Vancouver accords between Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin, as well as Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's talks in the United States," Karasin said.

Expresses Concern Over Haiti

LD1510205893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1353 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Staroselskiy and Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Oct (ITAR-TASS)—Moscow is seriously concerned at the dangerous turn of events on Haiti which may undermine the efforts of the international community to overcome the crisis of many years in this country, said Grigoriy Karasin, director of the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry's information and press department, at a briefing here today.

It is vital that no worsening of the situation be permitted, he noted, because nonobservance by Port-au-Prince of the agreements achieved in New York threatens a further worsening of the crisis on Haiti where universally-accepted human rights and the constitutional order are being violated.

"We call on the present authorities in Haiti," the Russian Federation spokesman stressed, "to strictly adhere to the New York agreements which created real conditions for the quickest possible restoration of democracy in that country."

Urges Bosnians To Show Restraint

LD1510144493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1401 GMT 14 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Sergey Staroselskiy and Vladimir Suprun]

[Text] Moscow October 15 TASS— "Moscow is concerned over the reports about the resumption of armed clashed between the conflicting parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Georgiy Karasin told a briefing here today.

"We are calling on the leadership of the three Bosnian communities to show restraint and good sense and preserve their determination to look for a political settlement of the crisis," Karasin said.

The Russian spokesman said Moscow welcomed the joint statement of Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Bosnian serb leader Radovan Karadzic about their readiness to continue dialogue in the basis of the earlier agreed package of documents.

Justice Minister Satisfied With Results of U.S. Visit

LD1610181993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1752 GMT 16 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Pakhomov]

[Text] New York City October 16 TASS—"We are satisfied with the U.S. trip, as we have agreed with major U.S. juridical institutes and centers on cooperation," said Russian Justice Minister Yuriy Kalmykov, commenting on results of a brief visit to Washington, DC, and New York, of a group of Russian jurists.

"Today we practically do not have contacts with the U.S. Justice Department," he told ITAR-TASS on Friday. "At the same time, we have similar problems. The absence of well-adjusted relations in the legal sphere between the two nations is inadmissible".

"We have agreed on preparations for an international conference with the theme 'the legal reform and protection of businesses in Russia' in late February-early

March, 1994. The conference will be organized by Russian and U.S institutions and scientists. We plan to use all positive the legislation of developed nations has," he added.

Naval Official Interviewed on Black Sea Fleet

LD1410220693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1443 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Tragic events in Moscow have pushed all other Russian problems far aside, though yesterday they seemed to be of greatest priority. Now, when the situation in the country is gradually stabilizing, politicians are transferring their attention to forgotten issues, in particular, the problem of the division of the Black Sea Fleet between Russia and Ukraine. As experts believed, Yeltsin-Kravchuk negotiations held on September 3 in Massandra (Crimea) should have dotted the "i's" in this area because according to the signed agreement, the whole Black Sea Fleet stationed in the Crimea should be transferred to the command of the Russian Navy to compensate for Ukraine's debt to Russia. Later, however, Kiev rejected the fact that this was its final agreement. Several of Ukraine's senior leaders accused Russia of violating the "rules of the game." First Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Naval Forces Admiral Igor Kasatonov expresses his point of view regarding this issue in an exclusive interview with Interfax.

IF: It seemed that the summit in Massandra would solve the painful issue on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet. Now it appears that is has not clarified anything. What do you believe is the probable course of further events?

I. KASATONOV: First of all, I'd like to underline that in my opinion there is no Black Sea Fleet problem at all. It was artificially created by those forces which are interested in fueling tension around this issue. But what is most curious is that the speaker of the Ukrainian parliament, Ivan Plyushch, also agrees with this opinion. While talking with me some time ago he recognized this and added that this problem was devised by me, Admiral Kasatonov. In reality everything is quite the contrary.

I believe that the question of who owns the Black Sea Fleet is being played by the Ukrainians like a card in a political game and has been so for a long time. The situation is rather strange indeed: one party has sold and another has bought the Fleet. For the first time Kiev spoke about selling several ships this January and then sold the command post. Finally, it now speaks about selling the entire Black Sea Fleet. It's astonishing! When and what civilized states were trading their military fleets?

In the end, everything rests on the economy as the economy primarily determines Kiev's behavior. There is no need to explain Ukraine's preoccupation with economic activity in the region where the Black Sea Fleet is stationed and in what abyss its economy is in now. It is also well known what situation the financial system of this country is in, namely, that everything is in collapse right now, including the political, economic, and financial spheres. And it is precisely at this moment that people in power in Kiev bring up and pursue "the Black Sea Fleet problem."

IF: You want to say that these leaders try to explain all the misfortunes of this country by the existence of the Black Sea Fleet, don't you?

I. KASATONOV: That's right. Ukraine lacks money, and the Black Sea Fleet is guilty of this as one needs to finance it. The situation in the economy is very difficult, and again it is the Black Sea Fleet which is to blame because it is equipped with such technology which forces Ukraine to strain its forces in order to maintain the combat efficiency of the ships. But Kiev does not wish to give up its ambitions.

I'd like to particularly stress that the Ukrainian side, which is being carried away by this fierce and unprecedented struggle for the Fleet, is not paying attention to the opinion of the people who serve in the Black Sea Fleet. At the same time, the majority of the marines have already expressed their opinion, as 210 ships assigned to the auxiliary fleet have hoisted the St. Andrew flag. Combat ships are ready to follow their example at any moment.

Of course, certain forces in Ukraine, which I would call destructive ones—namely the Defense Ministry, special services, secret military departments, Rukh's branches, and several purely nationalist organizations, whose activity would be condemned in any civilized state - are to be blamed for this.

Nobody thinks about the well-being of the marines and their families: the wages of many of them are much lower than the subsistence level. Veterans, their children, and grandchildren are in a desperate situation. In addition, people are virtually deprived of the possibility to demonstrate and advance their training and skills in that profession which they have chosen for themselves.

IF: Speaking about the Black Sea Fleet one cannot help but mention Sevastopol, its main base.

I. KASATONOV: Currently Sevastopol is a real powder keg. The majority of the population is undoubtedly in favor of the transfer of the city and the base to Russia's jurisdiction. Those who assert that only elderly people gather for meetings in support of Sevastopol's resubordination to the Russian Federation are kidding themselves. In order to understand this, one only need to look at how the subsistence level in Russia is higher than in Ukraine.

And the most important issue, which cannot but arouse the concern of the Russians, is the combat formation of the Ukrainian power structures with respect to the Black Sea Fleet bases, which has been developed by Ukraine's Defense Ministry. Even Manstein himself would envy such a formation. (Manstein was Hitler's field marshal

who commanded a group of armies on principal directions during the war against the USSR, in particular during the offensive against Moscow. - Interfax)

IF: What is "tactical order of battle" in civilian language?

I. KASATONOV: Tactical order of battle means a multi-echelon defense or offensive line. In this case it is the starting line from which combat units start their movement against the adversary, solving the tasks they face.

If we have a look at operative maps available in Ukraine's Defense Ministry and State Security Committee, it becomes quite clear that seizure of the Black Sea Fleet is the main task today. That is, units and detachments of these power structures are accumulated in such places with respect to the Black Sea Fleet which, as analysis shows, seem the most vulnerable for them.

In short, everything is organized in accordance with the most advanced concepts of the operative art, that is to say, the forces are ready to launch an attack upon any signal, not considering that not only servicemen but their families and children will suffer as a result of this attack. And this plan is aimed against the people with whom Ukrainians have been brothers and were on friendly terms with for centuries.

I think that Ukraine's special services, and primarily its "security service," the KGB's successor, stand behind this. All of us remember the KGB, which had under its control our nation's entire society. And now these people are acting against the Black Sea Fleet...

IF: What forms does this work take on?

I. KASATONOV: It is rather primitive but based on sensitive directions. There were informants in the Fleet's headquarters earlier as well, who gave information to those who were interested in the situation. They are active now as well, providing information on the actual status of movement of the Black Sea Fleet.

IF: But since the Black Sea Fleet is a now a joint fleet, isn't this criminal activity?

I. KASATONOV: Nothing of the kind. The Black Sea Fleet is not and never has been a joint one. Let them think in Kiev anything they want, but the Fleet is a Russian one.

IF: However, this issue has not yet been finally decided...

I. KASATONOV: From a political point of view it is not resolved. But it is quite clear that Ukraine is unable to maintain the Fleet: it has no money. Russia is ready to give all necessary funds.

Now Russian marines receive their salaries in Ukrainian coupons according to the exchange rate which is substantially lower than the official one. They practically eke out a beggar's existence.

IF: How do you see the situation developing further?

I. KASATONOV: I have no right to criticize the president. The protocol on the Black Sea Fleet's "selling" has been signed already, but it is clear to me that this occurred due to the fact that Ukraine found itself in a hopeless situation. Trying to improve its economy Kiev presented its trump card - the Black Sea Fleet. It is a weather-vane policy and Kravchuk's attempt to indulge those forces which struggle against Russia.

In my opinion, the situation in the Fleet is now developing in the right direction, is of sound sense, and has it own logic. Hoisting of the St. Andrew flag will go on and there are no forces which can prevent this.

Russia takes the whole Black Sea Fleet, including its Ukrainian part as compensation for Ukraine's debts and proceeds with its financing and maintenance. It is fair from a historic point of view and correct from a strategic one and, by the way, it is in the interests of Ukraine itself.

IF: It seems that deputies in the Ukrainian parliament do not think so...

I. KASATONOV: No. It is only those destructive forces which cannot sensibly assess their country's opportunities who do not think so. Among them I can name such parliamentarians as architect Skorik, dentist Khmara, and agronomist Zayats. These people do not realize that Ukraine is simply unable to maintain the Black Sea Fleet.

IF: You have recently returned from the United States. Have you discussed the issue of the Black Sea Fleet there?

I. KASATONOV: Yes, in the course of our negotiations with the US supreme naval commanders we touched upon this issue. They do not share the absurd approach of Ukraine's Defense Ministry towards this problem. Therefore they are, of course, in favor of the Russian Black Sea Fleet. This is their official point of view.

The Americans realize what threat such contradictions pose to Europe. Yugoslavia represents a vivid example. That is why the Americans have signed an agreement on cooperation with the Russian Federation to support peace and stability on the European continent, including through use of naval forces.

This is of great importance, especially given the growing role of the naval forces in the strategic nuclear forces. In accordance with the treaty signed with the United States, the number of sea- based nuclear weapons in Russia will increase from 28 percent to 42 percent at the expense of land and air strategic forces reduction.

IF: Is it logical and is it not too expensive for Russia, considering that re-orientation of the nuclear arsenal is going on during conversion of military production?

I. KASATONOV: Of course, the situation is not an easy one. But our main task is to preserve people and technology. As of now these processes are reversible and there is nothing criminal or catastrophic in this. We must

bear in mind that in the next 3 to 4 years the Russian economy will rise and, consequently, we will manage to preserve everything we have secured. In my opinion, there is nothing to worry about.

Black Sea Fleet Conditions 'More Degrading'

PM1510122593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Oct 93 p 3

[Vladimir Maryukha report: "Black Sea Fleet Besieged by Pickets: Losing 'Their Own People' in the Defense Ministry, Ukrainian Nationalists Are Switching from Battles of Words to New Forms of Struggle To 'Ukrainianize' the Black Sea Fleet"]

[Text] The reshuffles in the Ukrainian military department (see KRASNAYA ZVEZDA 13 October) inspire the hope that the political aspirations of the military chiefs in the transitional period will be replaced by sober consideration and the informed opinion of specialists. However, such a picture does not suit the nationalists, whose slogans have long been demands of the "Ukraine for the Ukrainians" type—the ships and units of the Black Sea Fleet being a means to that end.

That is why activists of the Nikolayev city branch of Rukh, the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, the Democratic Union and Democratic Party of Ukraine, the Nikolayev Solidarity trade union, and the Union of Ukrainian Women began picketing on 12 October a brigade [brigada] of ships undergoing repair in the city. The pickets are demanding that the brigade be switched to the command of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry, that the supplying of Black Sea units be stopped, and that the cruiser Slava, which is undergoing a scheduled refit, be removed from the republic as a "foreign ship."

Fueling nationalist aspirations with anti-Russian placards, the pickets have high-handedly demanded that the brigade commander, Capptain First Rank Yuriy Yaroshenko, take the Ukrainian oath of allegiance and that the unit be placed under the jurisdiction of Ukraine. He has declined the "honor" of becoming that kind of officer and gentleman, although it has to be bluntly said that, even without the picketing, service in Black Sea Fleet units is becoming more degrading in terms of morale and living conditions with each day that passes.

For example, Black Sea Fleet servicemen receive 3,000 coupons a month to pay for sublet accommodation, while Ukrainian sailors get 20,000, and that sum is, of course, pathetic—in Sevastopol accommodation cannot be had for less than 100,000-120,000 coupons a month. The Black Sea Fleet sailors are penalized in another way too: Their pay, which is equivalent to that in the Russian Navy, is paid at the rate of 1 ruble to 3.2 coupons, whereas the official rate is 1 to 5.6. The Black Sea Fleet is also denied the right to get information first-hand, as it were. It is not enough that the ships and units receive KRASNAYA ZVEZDA late; it is now impossible to take out a subscription to it, as the Black Sea sailors are required to pay in rubles, which the fleet has long since stopped receiving.

Meanwhile another round of Russian-Ukrainian talks is scheduled in Kiev, to include discussion of the problems of the Black Sea Fleet. Admiral Feliks Gromov, commander in chief of the Russian Navy, has already flown to the Ukrainian capital.

Kozyrev Denounces 'Ethnic Cleansing' in Abkhazia

LD1510171093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev expressed his stand on Russia's internal policy and its role on the international scene during a meeting today with members of Moscow's press club and journalists accredited in Moscow.

Commenting on the situation in Abkhazia, the minister stressed that the status of an autonomy within the framework of the unified state of Georgia will be secured.

According to him, reviewing the borders of the former Soviet Union republics will undoubtedly result in a Yugoslavia scenario.

Stressing examples of a serious breach of the Sochi agreement which resulted in the transfer of authority and free actions [as heard] from the Abkhaz side into the hands of combatants, Kozyrev said that according to the Foreign Ministry's information and the IZVESTIYA newspaper, an obvious ethnic cleansing is taking place in Abkhazia. In this connection he characterized Russia's stand as strictly negative and reminded those present at the meeting that the Russian Government has introduced sanctions against Abkhazia and that the government issued a severe statement in this respect yesterday. [passage omitted]

Georgian 'Spies' To Be Handed Back to Georgia

LD1510195293 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1900 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Russia's security services have decided to hand over to Georgia four Georgian spies detained last July in Krasnodar territory of southern Russia. Until very recently the four career officers of the Georgian Information and Intelligence Service were held in custody in investigation cells of the city of Krasnodar. The dates and procedure for their transfer to Georgia are being specified.

Russia is making the goodwill gesture now that Georgia has assured it that the Georgian special services will not indulge any more in intelligence gathering or other hostile activity on the territory of Russia.

Further on 'Act of Goodwill'

LD1610083193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0130 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] A decision has been adopted by the relevant Russian bodies to hand over to Georgia four Georgian intelligence officers who were arrested in Krasnodar Kray in July of this year. Russia is undertaking this act of goodwill in view of the assurance given by Georgia that the Georgian secret services will not carry out intelligence or other enemy activity on Russian territory. As far as is known, this is the first time intelligence officers have been handed over in this way on the territory of the former USSR.

Security Minister Holds Talks With Georgian Counterpart

LD1610132793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 16 Oct 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Russian Security Minister Nikolay Golushko has met with Republic of Georgia Security Minister Igor Georgadze in Moscow. Issues connected with preparing an agreement on cooperation between special services on the fight against terrorism, illegal arms and drugs distribution and other problems of mutual interest were discussed.

Talks With Armenian Delegation Begin in Moscow

LD1810103593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1006 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow October 18 ITAR-TASS—Talks between Russia and Armenia began in the Russian Government building in Staraya Square today. The Russian delegation is being led by First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation Yegor Gaydar and Vice-Premier Aleksandr Shokhin. The Armenian delegation is headed by President Levon Ter-Petroysan and includes Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan and other members of the government.

The meeting is being held behind closed doors but ITAR-TASS has learned that the negotiations are centering around Armenia's participation in the rouble zone, as well as aspects of economic cooperation between the two countries.

Czech Interior Minister Arrives in Moscow

LD1510095793 Prague CTK in English 0858 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow, Oct 15 (CTK correspondent)—Czech Interior Minister Jan Ruml, who arrived in Moscow last night, opens a two-day working visit to Russia today. He is scheduled to meet Yevgeniy Primakov, dierctor general of the Russian foreign intelligence, and Russian Interior Minister Viktor Yerin.

The spokesman for the Czech Interior Ministry, Jan Subert, has said that Ruml's talks in Moscow will focus on cooperation in fighting international organised crime and terrorism, drug trafficking, dirty money laundering, illicit trade in weapons and strategic material, and global migration-related problems.

Meets Primakov

LD1510172593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1703 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By CRIME PRESS correspondent Valeriy Litvinenko]

[Text] Moscow, October 15 (TASS)—Czech Interior Minister Jan Ruml told Crime Press today director of the Russian foreign intelligence Yevgeniy Primakov has assured him the Russian secret service will not work against the Czech Republic.

In their turn, Czech secret services will not work against Russia, said the minister.

Ruml is currently in Moscow in development of his negotiations with Yevgeniy Primakov in May, 1993, in Prague.

Reaches Anti-Terrorism Agreement

LD1610183893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1722 GMT 16 Oct 93

[By CRIME PRESS correspondent Larisa Kaslinskaya]

[Text] Moscow October 16 TASS—VIsiting Czech Interior Minister Jan Ruml met Russian Security Minister Nikolay Galushko and Interior Minister Viktor Yerin here today, sources at the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service Press Bureau told CRIME PRESS.

He has also met Secretary of the Russian Security Council Oleg Lobov, Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service Yevgeniy Primakov and Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

The sides discussed cooperation in measures against organized crime, international terrorism, illegal drug and psychotropic agent trafficking, contraband sales of arms, explosive, strategic and splitting materials and illegal emigration of citizens.

They stated international cooperation in this sphere is now especially important and considered bilateral interaction expedient.

Soskovets Satisfied With Visit to France

LD1510133293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1221 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow October 15 TASS—First Vice-Chairman of the Russian Council of Ministers Oleg Soskovets told journalists here today that he was very much satisfied with the results of the visit paid to France by a Russian Government delegation he headed. The delegation stayed in France from October 11 to 13. It had meetings and talks with the French Government and business circles on problems linked with the metallurgical industry, aircraft-building, and the fuel and energetics complex.

According to Soskovets, the talks were "based on partnership, and not requests from the Russian side." "The main topic of the negotiations," he added, "was the promotion of business contact and the establishment of production ties between the two countries."

Soskovets said that a memorandum was signed with the French side "on the Russian aluminium industry's adherence to the terms of the European market." Instead of the current dumping, the vice-premier noted, "it is necessary to find effective methods of cooperation that would help boost the European market with the help of Russian aluminium enterprises."

The vice-premier believes that the use of French aircraft-building experience by Russian aircraft-building companies could set a good example. "Several types of Russian aircraft, manufactured for export, will be fitted out with some French-made flight control and direction instruments," he stressed.

According to Soskovets, the French side has displayed much interest in cooperation linked with the switch-over of the Russian defence industry to civilian rails. The sides had talks on cooperation within the frameworks of the European Community, in particular on problems of regulating the international market, as regards individual types of raw materials, and on EC technological aid to Russia.

FRG Labor Minister Meets Gaydar, Ends Visit

LD1710104893 Hamburg DPA in German 0937 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Moscow (DPA)—Labor Minister Norbert Bluem has spoken in favor of greater social support for the economic reforms in Russia. After a meeting with [Russian] Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar, Bluem told reporters today at the end of his three-day visit to Moscow: "The progress of the reforms only has a chance if it takes place on the basis of democracy. To that extent support for the reformers is also in Germany's interests."

"For the [German] Federal Government, there was at no time any doubt what side it was on," Bluem said, reaffirming Bonn's support for the reformists close to Boris Yeltsin. "I can see that they are are working to pursue their goals with great determination and firm resolve—and they have proved that they are prepared to take any risks."

The Federal Government has already helped to build three employment exchanges, Bluem said, who met his counterpart, Gennadiy Melikjan, among others. They agreed on a more extensive exchange of experiences in the field of labor protection.

At a joint news conference, Gaydar announced a reduction in subsidies and low-interest loans as well as further liberalization of world trade, faster privatization, and guaranteed rights for investors. "We realize these are not suitable measures for an election campaign, but we can no longer afford to sacrifice Russia's economic future in favor of short-lived political advantages", said Gaydar, one of the leaders of the Russia's Choice party, which was founded at the weekend. Gaydar called for Russian goods to have equal access to the European markets. [passage omitted]

Germany To Help in Developing Businesses

LD1610225693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1915 GMT 16 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Voronenkov]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Oct—In reply to a question from the ITAR-TASS correspondent, Andrey Shapovalyans, Russian first deputy economy minister, stressed the need for the setting up of a specialized bank to support small- and medium-sized business in Russia. The necessary documents have been prepared by the German side and approved by the participants of the seminar. However, so as not to waste the one and a half to two years that are necessary for this bank to be up and running, one must make use of Russia's existing banking system now. Russian specialists are also being trained in banks in Germany. A group of 50 people from banks in many of Russia's regions have already had a period of training this year alone.

In a conversation with the ITAR-TASS correspondent, Johann Eekhoff, the state secretary from the FRG Economics Ministry, stressed Germany's willingness to actively support the development of small- and medium-sized business in the future as well. He noted that there was experience in this field that had already proved its worth after German unification in transferring the industrial potential of the federal states [laender] in the east onto the market economy rails. In Germany today 99 percent of enterprises are small- and medium-sized enterprises. Two-thirds of all workers in the country are employed in them. Therefore, it is very important that Russia now concentrates on having dynamic small- and medium-sized business, he noted.

Specialists from the Economics and Finance Ministries of the two countries have succeeded in coming up with an idea for supporting small- and medium-sized business in Russia. The necessary normative documents have been drawn up which determine how entrepreneurs are to work in Russia, and a unified standard that allows Russian businessmen and western investors to speak "in

one language" while implementing joint projects, has been created with the help of the German side.

In Andrey Shapovalyans' opinion, the work that has been done by specialists from the two countries will help enable "the instruments of the western countries' developed market economy to adapt to the transitional situation that Russia currently finds itself in."

Those taking part in the seminar paid a lot of attention to cooperation between Russia's regions and the federal regions in Germany. An example of this kind of cooperation is a large-scale joint project for reconstructing the economy of Vladimir Oblast, which got underway in April this year, and which takes into account the economic, natural, and social possibilities of this region.

Kozyrev Says NATO Needs Russia To Ensure Stability

LD1510155993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1501 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Oct—Russia does not look on NATO as some kind of hostile bloc and does not exclude the possibility of joining this organization. In the current circumstances the main thing, Russian Foreign Minister Kozyrev believes, is that "we are ready for mutual reform and for cooperation with NATO in the interests of strengthening common European security." The Russian minister met representatives of the press in the Central House of Journalists today.

In reply to a question from the ITAR-TASS correspondent, Kozyrev stressed that the decision on whether to join NATO or not is an inalienable right of all sovereign states, including those in Eastern Europe, of course. Russian President Boris Yeltsin made this absolutely clear during his recent visit to Warsaw, the Russian minister recalled.

Today the "door to NATO is open, but should everyone rush toward it right away?" Kozyrev continued. He believes that he "is far from convinced that an extension of NATO without Russia will have a positive effect on stability in Europe."

"The door to NATO is open but we will not hurry; let us solve together the most important, specific problems and react to the real challenges of our stability in a more vigorous and resolute manner," the minister stressed.

Shokhin Views Ties With IMF, World Bank, EC

LD1710102893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0740 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin by correspondent Tatyana Chemodanova; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Announcer] Esteemed radio listeners, if I ask you about the current financial and economic situation in Russia, you will definitely say that it is rather bad, and you will be right. It would be interesting to know whether leading foreign countries are concerned with improving our position. The topic is being actively discussed by economists and politicians of various orientation. Our correspondent Tatyana Chemodanova has met a person who is very competent in this sphere, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Nikolayevich Shokhin. Let us listen to him.

[Chemodanova] Aleksandr Nikolayevich, the situation in Russia has changed. In the new situation, what is most important in financial and economic relations between Russia and the outside world?

[Shokhin] The most important thing in our relations is to implement what has been planned. Perhaps, because of our—I mean the government members—negligence, perhaps because of bad relations with parliament, a number of our agreements with the World Bank, for example, have come to a standstill. In particular, I am talking here of the World Bank's oil rehabilitation credit, the European Bank's oil credit, and the credit to develop employment services. All this can now be done promptly. I think, literally in the next few weeks, we will sign relevant agreements with these banks.

Also, we should do what we planned back in the spring with the International Monetary Fund [IMF]. In particular, the decision was taken last spring that the second half of the system credit—1.5 billion [currency not specified]—will be granted at the end of this year, at the very end, at the end of December. If we try really hard, we might get it even a little earlier. For this purpose, an IMF mission is coming to Moscow virtually at the beginning of next week, so that together we can assess our program for the remaining part of the year, and so that the mission can draw their conclusion as to how everything is going, if not in the best possible way, but that the Russian leadership, the government, and the president are doing everything possible.

I also expect our talks with the European Community to go ahead now. You will recall that there was a lull in the talks in the summer but we expect the arrival of Jacques Delors, president of the European Communities Commission, and Belgian Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene, president of the Council of the European Communities, at the beginning of next week. I think these talks will receive a new impulse and there is a chance that the agreement will be signed before the end of the year. Therefore, there are no traumatic turns that are not in our favor. On the other hand, no one is promising to open the locks and give money only because the way of reforms, the way of democratic transformations—so that we should not stop on this road. I think, everyone has a rather balanced approach here. There are no stops and there are even some accelerations.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Decrees 12 Dec Referendum on Constitution

LD1510163993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1624 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow October 15 TASS—A decree on holding a referendum on the draft Russian constitution was issued today by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the presidential press service reports. Follows the full text of the decree.

"On holding a universal referendum on the draft constitution of the Russian Federation.

"Bearing in mind the inviolability of people's power is the basis of the constitutional system of the Russian Federation, the multi-national people is the carrier and the only source of power in the Russian Federation, as well as aiming at the implementation of the people's right to directly settle major problems of state life, I resolute [as received]:

"1. To put on a universal voting the draft constitution of the Russian Federation approved by the Constitutional Conference.

"2. To include in the ballot-paper the following wording 'Do you accept the constitution of the Russian Federation? Yes or no'.

"3. To approve the enclosed provisions on universal voting on the draft constitution of the Russian Federation on December 12, 1993.

"4. To establish that in case of adoption of the constitution of the Russian Federation by universal voting it shall enter into force since the moment of publishing of results of the universal voting.

"5. This decree shall enter into force since the moment of its publication.

[Signed] President of the Russian Federation Boris Yeltsin

[Dated] Kremlin, Moscow, October 15, 1993"

Statute on Draft Constitution Ballot

LD1610101193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1725 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow, 15 Oct—Here follows the "Statute on a Nationwide Ballot on the Draft Constitution of the Russian Federation on 12 December 1993," as approved by the president of the Russian Federation:

Statute on a Nationwide Ballot on the Draft Constitution of the Russian Federation on 12th December 1993

Chapter 1. General Provisions

Article 1. Nationwide ballot on the draft Constitution of the Russian Federation

The draft Constitution of the Russian Federation, as put forward by the president of the Russian Federation, is submitted for a nationwide ballot.

Article 2. Main Principles of the Nationwide Ballot

1. The nationwide ballot is universal and equal, and is carried out by means of the secret expression of the will of citizens.
2. The right to participate in the nationwide ballot belongs to every citizen of the Russian Federation who is at least 18 years of age.
3. Citizens pronounced incapable by a court and citizens being held in places of confinement in accordance with a court sentence which has come into legal effect cannot take part in the nationwide ballot, unless otherwise specified in the Russian Federation's legislation.

Article 3. Date of the Nationwide Ballot

The nationwide ballot is to be held on 12 December 1993.

Article 4. Financing of the Nationwide Ballot

1. The financing of measures related to the organization and conduct of the nationwide ballot is effected using funds of the republican budget of the Russian Federation.
2. In financing campaign activity, citizens and public associations have the right to use their own funds and voluntary contributions.
3. The resources of foreign citizens and public associations cannot be used to finance campaigning.

Article 5. Organizing and Conducting the Nationwide Ballot

1. The organization and conduct of the nationwide ballot are entrusted to the corresponding electoral commissions which the statute on the election of deputies to the State Duma in 1993, ratified by Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 1557 of 1 October 1993, stipulates for organizing and conducting elections to the State Duma.
2. In deciding all matters related to preparing and conducting the nationwide ballot, the electoral commissions are independent of other state bodies, within the jurisdictional limits established by the statute on federal bodies of power for the period of transition.
3. The electoral commissions work on the basis of collegiality. The preparation for and conduct of the nationwide ballot are carried out openly and publicly by the electoral commissions.

Chapter 2. Precincts for Conducting the Nationwide Ballot. Lists of Citizens Eligible To Take Part in the Ballot.

Article 6. Precincts for Conducting the Ballot

The precincts for conducting the nationwide ballot are the electoral precincts formed in accordance with Article 10 of the statute on the election of deputies to the State Duma in 1993, ratified by Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 1557 of 1 October 1993.

Article 7. Lists of Citizens Eligible To Take Part in the Ballot

The lists of citizens eligible to take part in the nationwide ballot are the lists of voters formed in accordance with Article 11 of the statute on the election of deputies to the State Duma in 1993, ratified by Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 1557 of 1 October 1993.

Chapter 3. Commissons for Conducting the Nationwide Ballot

Article 8. Types of Commission for Conducting the Nationwide Ballot

The organization and conduct of the nationwide ballot is carried out by:
(a) The Central Electoral Commission for the elections to the State Duma established by Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 1505 of 29 September 1993, which is to carry out the functions of the Central Commission for conducting the nationwide ballot (henceforth the Central Electoral Commission);
(b) District electoral commissions formed in accordance with article 14 of the statute on the elections of deputies to the State Duma in 1993 as authorised by RF Presidential Edict No. 1557 of 1 October 1993, which are to carry out the functions of district commissions for conducting the nationwide ballot;
(c) Precinct electoral commissions formed in accordance with Article 15 of the statute on the elections of deputies to the State Duma in 1993 as authorized by Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 1557 of 1 October 1993, which are to carry out the functions of precinct electoral commissions for conducting the nationwide ballot.

Article 9. Powers of the Central Electoral Commission

1. The Central Electoral Commission:
(a) provides clarifications on procedure for the application of this statute and ensures that it is implemented in uniformly;
(b) examines declarations and complaints with respect to the decisions and actions of precinct electoral commissions and renders decisions on these;
(c) issues instructions and other enactments on questions relating to the nationwide ballot in instances envisaged by this statute;
(d) monitors the legality of conduct of the nationwide ballot;
(e) distributes funds allocated from the Russian Federation republic budget for financing the nationwide ballot and monitors their special-purpose utilization;
(f) examines questions on material-technical support for the preparation and conduct of the nationwide ballot;
(g) determines the results of the voting overall throughout the Russian Federation and publishes them in the press and ensures that documentation related to the conduct and organization of the nationwide ballot is submitted to the archives;
(h) exercises other authority in accordance with this statute.

2. The powers of the Central Electoral Commission and the period of its activities are determined in accordance with Paragraphs 2-4 of Article 17 of the statute on the elections of deputies to the State Duma in 1993 as authorized by Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 1557 of 1 October 1993.

Article 10. Powers of the district electoral commission

District electoral commissions operate in accordance with Article 18 of the statute on the elections of deputies to the State Duma in 1993 as authorized by Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 1557 of 1 October as regards the organization of the nationwide ballot.

Article 11. Powers of the Precinct Electoral Commission

District precinct commissions operate in accordance with Article 19 of the statute on the election of deputies of the State Duma in 1993, confirmed by Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 1557 of 1 October 1993 concerning the organization of the nationwide ballot.

Article 12. Organization of the Operation of Electoral Commissions

All electoral commissions operate in accordance with Article 20 of the statute on the election of deputies of the State Duma in 1993 as confirmed by Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 1557 of 1 October 1993.

Article 13. Appeals against Decisions and Actions of the Electoral Commissions

1. Appeals against decisions and actions of the central electoral commission can be addressed to the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation in accordance with the procedure established by the law.
2. Appeals against decisions and actions of the district electoral commissions that violate the present Statute can be addressed to the Central electoral commission or the court in accordance with the procedure established by the law. However, a preliminary appeal to the central electoral commission is not an essential condition for appealing to the court. Appeals against decisions and actions of precinct electoral commissions can be addressed to the appropriate electoral commissions or to the court.

3. Appeals against decisions and actions of district and precinct electoral commissions will be examined within five days and those made on the day of the ballot will be considered immediately.

Chapter 4. Campaigning

Article 14. The Right to Participate in Campaigning

1. Citizens of the Russian Federation and public associations have the right to campaign without hindrance for or against the draft constitution of the Russian Federation which has been put to the referendum.
2. Campaigning is banned on the last day before the day of the nationwide ballot and on the day of the ballot.

Article 15. Campaigning Periods and Procedure

The campaigning periods and procedure are laid down in accordance with Articles 27-30 of the statute on election of deputies to the State Duma in 1993 as confirmed by Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 1557

Chapter 5. Financing the Nationwide Ballot

Article 16. Financing the Organization and Conduct of the Nationwide Ballot

1. Funds allocated from the republican budget of the Russian Federation to the organization and conduct of the nationwide ballot come under the control of the Central Electoral Commission and are to be distributed by the commission through the district commissions for the elections of deputies to the State Duma to the electoral commissions of all electoral districts.
2. Electoral district commissions are to present to the Central Electoral Commission accounts of the expenditure of funds allocated to them no later than 45 days from the day of the official publication of the results of the nationwide ballot.
3. The Central Electoral Commission is to present to the Federation Council an account of expenditure of the funds indicated in Paragraph 1 of the current article no later than three months after the official publication of the results of the nationwide ballot. This account must be published by the Central Electoral Commission in publications which print federal laws, and provided to other media no later than one month from the day of its presentation to the Federation Council.

Chapter 6. The Nationwide Ballot and Determining its Results

Article 17. Premises for the Nationwide Ballot

The nationwide ballot is to take place on the same premises as voting in the election of deputies to the State Duma, as laid down in accordance with Article 34 of the statute on election of deputies to the state duma as confirmed by Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 1557 of 1 October 1993 .

Article 18. Voting Slips for the Nationwide Ballot

1. Each voter is to receive one voting slip of the form laid down in the appendix to the current Statute for the nationwide ballot on the draft constitution of the Russian Federation.
2. Voting slips for the nationwide ballot are to be printed in Russian, or in republics within the Russian Federation, autonomous oblasts and autonomous okrugs, also in the appropriate languages. If voting slips are prepared for an election district in two or more languages, the text is to be printed on every voting slip in each of these languages.
3. Voting slips for the nationwide ballot are to be printed to the order of the Central Electoral Commission. Electoral district commissions are to receive voting slips no later than three days before the day of the nationwide ballot. For each electoral district, the number of election ballot packages delivered to the precinct electoral commission cannot exceed the number of voters registered in the election precinct by more than two percent. The seal of the precinct electoral commission or signatures of two of its members are placed on the reverse of the ballots received.

Article 19. Voting Procedure for the Nationwide Ballot

1. The nationwide ballot on the draft constitution of the Russian Federation takes place from 0800 to 2200 local time in accordance with the procedure envisaged by Article 36 of the statute on the election of deputies to the State Duma in 1993 as confirmed by Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 1557 of 1 October 1993. If all the registered voters in an election precinct have cast their ballots, the precinct electoral commission can terminate the voting earlier than 2200.
2. On the voting paper for the nationwide ballot, the voter leaves unmarked the decision for which he is voting.

Article 20. Tallying the Votes at the Election Precinct

1. Upon expiry of the voting period, the chairman of the precinct electoral commission declares the voting terminated. After this, only persons already located in the voting premises may obtain election ballots and cast their vote.
2. Prior to tallying the vote, the chairman of the precinct electoral commission cancels the unused election ballots in the presence of all commission members, announces their number, enters this in the record, verifies the seals and stamps on ballot boxes are intact and opens the ballot boxes. All voting papers for the nationwide ballot on the draft constitution of the Russian Federation extracted from the ballot boxes are separated from those used in the election.
3. The precinct electoral commission separates invalid ballots. Ballots are considered invalid if they were not drawn up officially, not marked with the seal of the precinct electoral commission or the signatures of two of its members, or if it is impossible to discern the will of the voter, specifically: ballots on which neither of the

possible answers has been crossed out or on which both possible answers have been crossed out.
4. The precinct electoral commission draws up a record of proceedings following the nationwide ballot. The record indicates:
(a) the total number of voters registered in the election precinct;
(b) the number of cancelled unused ballots;
(c) the number of ballots issued on the day of the nationwide ballot;
(d) the number of ballots found in the ballot boxes;
(e) the number of invalid ballots;
(f) the number of ballots declared valid;
(g) the number of valid votes cast in favour of adoption of the Constitution of the Russian Federation;
(h) the number of votes cast against adopting the Constitution of the Russian Federation;
(i) complaints and declarations made to the commission and the decisions made in their regard.

5. The record of proceedings is drawn up in duplicate and is signed by all members of the precinct electoral commission. A member of the commission who does not concur with the record as a whole or with an individual provision of it has the right to attach a special opinion to the record.
6. One copy of the record of proceedings of the precinct electoral commission is immediately sent to the appropriate district electoral commission on the election of deputies to the State Duma and a second copy is kept together with the sealed ballot slips by the commission secretary until the work of the commission is completed.
7. Ballot documentation, including slips, is delivered to the appropriate district electoral commissions on the election of deputies to the State Duma no later than 10 days after the official announcement of the results of the nationwide ballot.

Article 21. Tallying the Votes at the District Electoral Commission

1. Immediately upon receiving records of proceedings from all precinct electoral commissions, the district electoral commission tallies the votes cast during the nationwide ballot on the draft constitution of the Russian Federation.
2. The district electoral commission draws up a record of proceedings indicating:
(a) the total number of voters registered on the territory of the district;
(b) the number of voting-slips issued but unused;
(c) the number of voting-slips issued on the day of the ballot;
(d) the number of voting-slips found in the ballot-boxes;
(e) the number of invalid voting-slips;
(f) the number of voting-slips declared valid;
(g) the number of votes cast for the adoption of the Constitution of the Russian Federation;
(h) the number of votes cast against the adoption of the Constitution of the Russian Federation;
(i) complaints and declarations made to the commission and decisions taken in their regard.

3. One copy of the record of proceedings of the district electoral commission is immediately sent to the Central Electoral Commission and a second copy is kept by the commission secretary until the commission has completed its work.

Article 22. Determining the Results of the Nationwide Ballot

1. Immediately upon receiving records of proceedings from all district electoral commissions, the Central Electoral Commission carries out a count of the votes cast during the nationwide ballot on the draft constitution of the Russian Federation.
2. The Central Electoral Commission draws up a record of proceedings indicating:
(a) the total number of voters registered in the Russian Federation;
(b) the number of cancelled unused ballots;
(c) the number of ballots issued on election day;
(d) the number of ballots found in the ballot boxes;
(e) the number of invalid ballots;
(f) the number of ballots declared invalid;
(g) the number of votes cast against the adoption of the Russian Federation Constitution;
(h) one of the following decisions:
—a declaration that the Russian Federation Constitution has been adopted. The Russian Federation Constitution is considered to be adopted if over 50 percent of the voters taking part in the ballot voted in favor of its adoption;
—a declaration that the nationwide ballot is invalid, if violations of the present statute during the holding of the ballot make it impossible authentically to establish the results of the expressed will of the voters;
—a declaration that the nationwide ballot is invalid, if less than 50 percent of the registered electorate took part in it;
(i) complaints and statements received by the commission and decisions made in respect of them.

3. The record of proceedings is drawn up in duplicate and signed by all members of the Central Electoral Commission.

Chapter 7. Final Provisions

Article 23. Resolution of Complaints and Disputes

Voter lists are challenged in accordance with the provisions of Articles 42 and 43 of the statute on the election of deputies to the State Duma in 1993 as confirmed by Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 1557 of 1 October 1993.

Article 24. Liability for Violations of Russian Federation Legislation on Elections

Individuals hampering a Russian Federation citizen by violence, deception, threats, or other means from exercising his right to take part or not take part in the nationwide ballot and to campaign as well as members of electoral commissions and officials of state bodies and

organizations and public organizations forging documents, deliberately tallying votes incorrectly, violating the secrecy of ballots, or permitting any other infringements of Russian Federation legislation on elections bear the liability stipulated by law.

APPENDIX to the Statute on the Nationwide Ballot on the Draft Constitution of the Russian Federation on 12 December 1993

Nationwide Ballot on the Draft Constitution of the Russian Federation 12 December 1993

Do you accept the Constitution of the Russian Federation?
Yes No
If you are voting for acceptance of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, delete the word "NO". If you are voting against the acceptance of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, delete the word "YES".

Yeltsin Interviewed on Constitution

LD1510182293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 15 Oct 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] President Yeltsin does not intend to sign any decrees which would considerably restrict constitutional human rights, he said today in an exclusive interview with our correspondent. He also talked about other topical problems.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Aleksandr Shashkov] Boris Nikolayevich, first let me congratulate you on your new home, for I think this is the first time that you have been filmed in your new office. But of course, this is not why we have come. We have a number of questions, which will probably be of interest to everybody right now.

The first is probably this: The phase through which Russia is now passing is called stage-by-stage constitutional reform. Its ultimate goal is the adoption of a new constitution—something which we have been seeking for a long time and which we have somehow been unable to achieve. How will it be adopted? What is your view of the idea of holding a referendum on the new Russian constitution?

[Yeltsin] Let us recall that work on the new constitution has been going on for almost three years—which is more than long enough. The new draft constitution has been approved by the Constitutional Conference. It has been given a test run by various professional organizations—lawyers, legal experts, and generally speaking, specialists. The most important thing now is to decide where the constitution should be adopted. There may be many options: a constituent conference, the newly elected Federal Assembly, or a referendum. Of course, the most democratic way is a referendum. That is how constitutions have been adopted in France and in many other countries. For this reason, it is not a rumor any more: I have today signed a decree ordering a nationwide ballot—a referendum—on the new draft constitution of the Russian Federation to be held on 12 December. And so, we shall make preparations.

No later than 10 November it—the Constitution—will be published. It will be sent to all power bodies without exception, to the localities as well. After that, it will be as the people decide on 12 December. If the majority of the people vote for adopting this constitution, then it will be a major stabilizing factor in Russia's life.

[Shashkov] Incidentally, Boris Nikolayevich, there is something about rumors and about 12 December. The subject of the elections to the state duma and the presidential elections being held simultaneously is still being discussed. You have made yourself quite clear on this matter at the news conference in Tokyo, but perhaps some new circumstances have arisen since you returned to Russia? Could you please clarify this point?

[Yeltsin] Right. No, there are no new circumstances. In accordance with the decree which I have signed, the early presidential elections will be held on 12 June 1994, unless the Federal Assembly decides otherwise—it will by then be entitled to make such decisions. At the moment there can be no doubt—I am convinced that in no circumstances should the elections to the Federal Assembly and the early presidential elections be held at the same time. Someone has to run the state during that period.

[Shashkov] Boris Nikolayevich, someone also has to deal with the problems faced by the localities. After your address to the people, in which you suggested that the soviets should disband themselves, it became clear that they will not survive until the next elections. How do you view their prospects? Who is going to be in charge in the localities?

[Yeltsin] Executive bodies will be in charge in the localities, as they are on the federal level—until the elections. And at the elections, representative power bodies will be chosen. The time of soviet power is coming to an end. And thank God for that.

[Shashkov] Boris Nikolayevich, one final question. It is a very urgent one and I think it will be raised very often at this stage. I mean the question of human rights in connection with the state of emergency. The IZVESTIYA newspaper today published extracts from...

[Yeltsin, interrupting] I have it.

[Shashkov] But perhaps some of our viewers have not.

[Yeltsin] All right, go on.

[Shashkov] Some extracts from a draft—or something which purports to be a draft—decree of the Russian Federation president, entitled "On the Measures for Maintaining Law and Order During the Period of the Stage-by-Stage Constitutional Reform". Does this draft really exist?

[Yeltsin] It is quite easy for me to answer this question: I know nothing of this draft decree.

[Shashkov] What if it appeared on your desk?

[Yeltsin] I would not sign it.

[Shashkov] Thank you.

[Yeltsin] At least, not in its present form.

[Shashkov] Thank you for the interview.

[Yeltsin] Thank you. [end recording]

Constitutional Working Group Views Amendments to Draft

LD1510145593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 15 Oct 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Now about the Constitution we are to adopt. Our correspondents are following developments within the Constitutional Conference's working group. A routine meeting was chaired by Sergey Filatov in the Kremlin today. The draft Constitution is expected to be submitted to the Constitutional Conference on 22 October.

According to Sergey Filatov, about 200 amendments to the draft constitution have arrived from subjects of the federation and the public. Some amendments are at odds with the principles laid down in the new Russian constitution, others improve the text, taking into account the situation in the country and yet another group requires discussion and evaluation by experts. There is not much time left, but it is absolutely obvious that a stabilization of the situation in Russia and the successful activity of the new parliament are unthinkable without a new constitution. It is logical, therefore, to hold a referendum on the constitution simultaneously with the elections on 12 December. At the same time, a proposal was voiced to instruct the Federal Assembly to improve the draft constitution since the existing text contains too much ideology as a result of compromises and concessions to the soviets.

On the eve of the elections, the idea is being raised increasingly often to make it possible for government members to take part in the election campaign. Filatov mentioned this too. Sergey Alekseyev, professor and well-known public figure, believes that this is an attempt to overcome the gap that exists between the two branches of authority. However, the traditions of democratic states show the vital importance of the division of authorities.

Yeltsin Reshuffles Deputy Prosecutors

LD1510195093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1932 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow October 15 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin sacked First Deputy Prosecutor-General Yevgeniy Lisov and two deputies Slavgorodskiy and Shakleyin as being transfered to other positions, the presidential press service announced late on Friday [15 October].

The same source said another presidential decree had named Vladimir Kravtsev, Eduard Denisov, Sabir Kekhlerov and Ivan Zemlyanushin as prosecutor-general's deputies.

Poltoranin Calls For Purge of Power Structures

LD1610223293 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Interview with Mikhail Poltoranin, head of the Federal Information Center by unidentified announcer; from the "Contrasts" program—recorded]

[Text] [Poltoranin] The Communists have not just gone underground now—you cannot say that they have gone underground, they have not gone anywhere. It is simply believed that they have gone underground, but they are living in their homes, they are sitting in their offices, no one touches them, because there are similar Communists in the Procuracy, their friends, similar Communists in the Interior Ministry, their friends, similar Communists in the Security Ministry, their friends. So there is this clan, this immense layer, which on the one hand is believed to be underground, but on the other hand it has power levers, and it can exert pressure on us and cut off our oxygen.

I am not afraid of the word—there has to be a purge in these structures, in the Procuracy, where Stepankov [former procurator general] brought in very many of his own people, and in the Security Ministry, and in the Defense Ministry, and in the Interior Ministry. The purge is for that time that we let slip by when we were too noble, when we said after August 1991—let them be, let them all stay where they are, let them even pursue their careers, we forgive them for coming out against the people. But nothing of the kind—they do not forgive us.

Our slogan was—we will not organize any witch hunts—and we left them there, and all this time they were slowly working against us, in the apparatus of the president, and in the apparatus of the government, and in other apparatus, which is why all our initiatives fizzled out, why, perhaps, 80 percent of the resolutions and instructions of the government are not carried out. Today, when they saw that things were on fire, when a certain breach occurred, straight away there were breaches in many places, and when these people went to Smolensk Square [scene of opposition demonstration on 2 October], they immediately started raising their heads to see who would win, then they quieted down. What we literally need to do now, in the first days, is not to share out property, buildings, the mayor's office, or the government, but first of all urgently reform our legal foundation, which we will do; reform the power structures, primarily the Security Ministry, and the Defense Ministry, which still has no doctrine; and carry out a purge, literally a purge.

[Announcer] Do you believe that it is realistic at present, and that the president will agree to a purge in the power structures?

[Poltoranin] He has to agree to a purge, because there is no other way. I think that the president could now return to the institution that he conceived of earlier in 1991, that of a State Council. What we now need is a State Council under the president that would possess certain supervisory functions, and that would take in some of the powers of the government, and the president. This State Council would include people from the constructive opposition, and this would be a powerful valve, which would let off the steam which is bound to build up in the absence of the Supreme Soviet.

[Announcer] What does the president think of this idea?

[Poltoranin] I have not spoken to him about it yet, this is the first time I have expressed the idea.

Official Comments on Draft Yeltsin Edict on Law, Order

LD1510155493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Chief of Russia's State Law Department Aleksandr Kotenkov, in an interview with INTERFAX, has agreed to reveal who was behind the draft of Yeltsin's decree on enforcing law and order over the period of interim constitutional reform. The controversial draft leaked to the press is described as a violation of human rights.

Kotenkov said the main provisions were made by the Interior Ministry, which wants tougher measures to be taken to combat crime. At the same time, he made it clear that prosecutors and judges had given a mixed response to such measures. He said that the SLD's [State Law Department] main difficulty is that it is having to prepare a document marked by a clash of interests.

Although the clause on the detention of suspects for up to 30 days without charge or trial has been deleted from the draft (now being initialled by the Interior Ministry), Kotenkov is not at all sure it will not re-appear in the final paper to be submitted to the president.

The SLD chief has agreed that parts of the decree were affecting human rights. However, he said it would be hard to enforce law and order after the emergency regulations were lifted without taking tougher measures than those envisaged by the current legislation. Kotenkov says the decree is a must at the moment, although he did not rule out that the Federal Assembly may later adopt or reject it.

President Yeltsin has issued more than 200 decrees since September 21, many of which were prepared by the SLD which has been working almost round-the-clock since then, Kotenkov said. He said that after the dissolution of the parliament, his department took over as the chief lawmaker until a new parliament, the Federal Assembly, is formed. Apart from drafting presidential decrees, the SLD is also preparing presidential or government bills to be put before the Federal Assembly, Kotenkov said.

On the President's commission for legal propositions, Kotenkov said its main task is stock-taking, preservation, priority definition, and amendment of the bills which were adopted in full or in part by the former Supreme Soviet. These include both the existing statutes and bills passed after their first reading or worked out by the parliamentary committees and commissions and the laws sent back by the President.

Despite its shortcomings, the former parliament had drawn up a number of attractive bills, many of which may have been irreparably lost after the rebellion, Kotenkov said.

Its second task, he said, is to work out bills regulating the activity of the Federal Assembly and each of its two houses.

Golushko, Stepashin on Reform of Penal Code, Ministry

MK1510132093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 1

[Aleksandr Barinov report in "Special Services" column: "Crime Control Efforts Intensify Again. Stepashin Believes Penal Code Needs To Be Improved"]

[Text] Addressing a press conference yesterday, Sergey Stepashin, Russian Federation deputy security minister, said that the country's leadership is now indeed preparing a package of measures to intensify crime control. They will affect both legislation and the structure of crime control departments—for the most part toward their consolidation.

"All of us, including journalists, have very often criticized the Supreme Soviet over the fact that the existing Penal Code and the Criminal Procedural Code are imperfect and obviously out of date," the deputy minister said. "These measures will be aimed to correct the situation."

Mr. Stepashin did not specify what changes in the legislation and structure of the Internal Affairs Ministry and the Security Ministry are envisioned under these measures or how substantial these changes are going to be, but he noted that they have been prepared for a long time and are not related to the constitutional reform. The reports about envisioned changes in the period of preliminary detention—up to 30 days, and also in the status of deputies, and so forth, were not refuted either.

In the present situation the question about the seriousness of legislative measures, especially with respect to the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedures Code, appears to be paramount because it is these laws that mostly regulate the citizens' rights and freedoms. The very urgency of such changes in these laws seems fairly

dubious. In the opinion of many experts, the existing provisions of the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedures Code are not so bad as to justify the rapidly rising crime and the passivity of the law enforcement bodies. In light of this it is instructive to recall the experience of all the previous campaigns "to crack down on crime and corruption," which were conducted almost every six months. All of them proved to be absolutely futile in terms of crime control but were invariably a fairly effective method for politicians to score "rating" points. In view of the acuteness of the current political situation it is not ruled out that the new "war against crime" will be no different. The only thing that remains unclear—especially with the circulating rumors—is whether the citizens' rights to a fair trial and investigation will not be sacrificed to political interests.

Touching on the rumors about a possible reorganization of the Security Ministry—according to one version, its merging with the Internal Affairs Ministry; and according to another, its breaking down into several independent entities, Russian Federation Security Minister Nikolay Golushko did not provide a coherent answer. He stated that there must not be several separate security services in the county and that the reform should primarily begin with that. Furthermore, he believes that some Security Ministry subdivisions will have to be reinforced and that some "fat" will need to come out of its bureaucratic apparatus. Meanwhile a senior ministry official said that the country's leadership is considering the idea of seriously reforming the Russian Federation Security Ministry but, in his opinion, that would not contribute to its normal operation.

Commenting at radio station Ekho Moskvy's request on reports about a draft edict on maintaining law and order in the context of phased constitutional reform, the president's legal adviser Yuriy Baturin stated:

"I have to state with sadness that drafts are coming in from various quarters, sometimes prepared with an honest intention of redressing the situation but without the requisite knowledge; sometimes prompted more by emotions than a clear-cut calculation of the situation; and sometimes by departmental egoism. It is very difficult to stop them—their pressure is too high.

"The 10-fold increase of the detention period without a court ruling—from three to 30 days—violates primarily Article 39 of the Constitution which says that this question lies in the jurisdiction of the law; it also violates sectoral legislation and Edict 1400 whereby the Constitution and the laws, with the exception of changes made under the edict, remain fully in effect.

"In addition to that, this apparently means considerable outlays for the state. It is not hard to imagine that detention premises will have to be expanded 10-fold, but these are minor technical details compared with what I have said earlier."

The president's legal adviser also noted that the draft edict has not been officially presented yet.

Security Minister Says Situation Stabilizing

LD1710180893 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1530 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] [Announcer] The situation in Russia was relatively quiet last week. This has also been confirmed by Russia's Security Minister Nikolay Mikhaylovich Golushko.

[Begin Golushko recording] Of late, the situation in the country following the Moscow events has been marked by a trend toward stabilization. This is most notably reflected in the fact that a normal working schedule is maintained in the constituent parts of the Federation, i.e. in Russia's regions. There have been no serious developments connected with the ban on certain parties and groups whose members supported the Moscow rebellion. There have been no developments in the regions that would suggest that any aggravation is on the cards. People want stability, they want economic growth, and, what is most important, most of the population, including deputies at the local level, are now getting actively involved in the election campaign. [end recording]

Charges Preferred Against Rutskoy, Khasbulatov, Others

LD1510181293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow, 15 Oct (ITAR-TASS)—The organizers of the armed rebellion, who are presently in the Security Ministry's Lefortovo remand prison, are being charged under Article 79 of the Russian Federation criminal codex ("The organization of mass disorders with serious consequences"). Today investigators from the General Procuracy began to lay charges against, among others, Ruslan Khasbulatov, Aleksandr Rutskoy, Viktor Barannikov, Andrey Dunayev, Vladislav Achalov, and Viktor Anpilov. An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told this in the Russian Federatiion General Procuracy's information and public relations center.

Konstantinov Arrested, Taken to Lefortovo

LD1610092693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0855 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow, 16 October—Russian Security Ministry operatives arrested one of the active participants in the attempted armed coup d'etat of 3-4 October, Ilya Konstantinov, a former Russian people's deputy and co-chairman of the National Salvation Front, yesterday in Moscow.

ITAR-TASS was told today at the Security Ministry that, at the time of his arrest, Konstantinov was unarmed and offered no resistance to law enforcement bodies. He had tried to change his appearance though, by shaving off his beard.

On the same day, Ilya Konstantinov was taken to the Security Ministry's remand center at Lefortovo, where the organizers of the military rebellion in Moscow, Khasbulatov, Rutskoy, Makashov, Achalov, Dunayev, Barannikov, Anpilov, and others, are being held.

Barannikov Denies Alleged Role in 'Rebellion'

LD1510191493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1722 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Former Security Minister Viktor Barannikov, arrested for his part in the rebellion earlier this month, denies his role in the crimes he is suspected off.

His lawyer Dmitriy Steinberg has said in an exclusive interview with Interfax that after three meetings with his defendants he is convinced that Barannikov "had a somewhat different mission, and his role in the events differed from that of the other arrested men." "His principle is to prevent armed clashes, he has followed this position all the time," Steinberg stressed.

More than that, the lawyer has "quite strong reasons" for Barannikov's release, and he has filed an appropriate request to the Prosecutor General's Office. "At the same time, considering the assessment given to the October events legally and otherwise by the country's leadership, I hope that the request will be met strictly in compliance with the law," Steinberg remarked.

He does not rule out that the political qualification of the events somewhat predetermines the outcome of the case since "in the current situation, it will not be easy to refute the arguments of the president and other leaders." "I see in this case obvious political pressure from senior officials," Steinberg emphasized. However, he is sure that if the investigation is conducted impartially and comprehensively, "Barannikov will be released from detention sooner or later."

General Reports on White House Casualties, Weapons

LD1510162393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1513 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow October 15 TASS—Commander of the Moscow Interior Ministry Forces Major General Arkadiy Baskayev refuted rumours about "thousands of dead bodies" allegedly found in the Russian parliament building stormed on October 4 by pro-Yeltsin troops. Baskayev told a news conference on Friday [15 October] that a little more than 40 persons killed and wounded in the clash were removed from the Russian White House during October 4 and 5.

The general revealed that 921 pieces weapons [as received] were found inside the building, including 160 automatic rifles, a machine-gun, several sniper rifles, a grenade launcher and a self- made flame thrower.

Besides, sappers found 101 trap-mines, more than 180 explosive devices of different types, 300 kilos of TNT and about 50 hand grenades.

According to Baskayev, the number of fire arms carried out of the building via underground tunnels remains unknown. Police have detained several armed people. The servicemen guarding the parliament building are receiving anonymous letters saying : "There is plenty of arms left. We shall take revenge".

Baskayev said underground tunnels have been searched as far as 1.5 kilometers (about a mile) from the building. But the sappers have not called it a day, and the search area will be extended to a 5-kilometre radius, the general said.

Baskayev called "hardly possible" an assertion that hundreds of gunmen have managed to escape from the besieged building using underground tunnels.

Damage to White House Estimated at 80-90 Billion Rubles

LD1510162893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1516 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow October 15 TASS—Damage done to the Russian parliament building during the early October violence in Moscow is estimated at eighty to ninety billion rubles, according to Aleksandr Pochinok, who heads a commission in charge of the transfer of the parliament property and documents.

He was speaking at a press conference here today.

Proceedings Against 1991 Coup Leaders Described

PM1510121593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Oct 93 First Edition pp 1,2

[Valeriy Rudnev report: "State Committee for State of Emergency Case: Court Begins Its Examination"]

[Text] While the General Prosecutor's Office team of investigators is starting to unravel the latest case of the October plotters and mutineers, the old one, the case of the August State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE], is slowly but surely traveling through the maze of the Soviet criminal process.

Only a negligible part of the procedure known in law as the "preparatory section of the court session" has been covered. The military collegium is moving on to the examination, the aim of which is to check the reliability and validity of the indictment. The examination starts by reading out the indictment.

The last three days of the court session have been organized and mainly predictable. Anatoliy Ukolov presiding, in response to previous failures to appear in

court, first extended the time of daily work to 1500 hours (the session starts at 10 o'clock) and, second, did not rule out the idea of the parties' working all five days of the week (today they work four).

...Despite the fact that another lawyer is at the helm of the Russian General Prosecutor's Office today, the shadow of Valentin Stepankov still looms over the SCSE case. The lawyers and their clients once again spoke unkindly of the deal with DER SPIEGEL, as a result of which some of the then secret investigation material ended up in the hands of German journalists and publication before a court ruling of the denunciatory book entitled "The Kremlin Conspiracy." It has been suggested that Stepankov himself be summoned to appear in court for examination as a witness. There have also been requests for B. Yeltsin, G. Burbulis, and other political leaders to be summoned to appear in court.

The court did not summon Stepankov, pointing out that the Military Collegium has already voiced its attitude toward him in deeming the book's publication a breach of the law. The question of summoning B. Yeltsin and G. Burbulis will be settled later. So far Yu. Luzhkov and G. Popov have been summoned as additional witnesses.

The question of confiscating the SCSE defendants' USSR state awards, discussed at one court session, proved complex. The point is that there is no means in current criminal process of effecting this confiscation. And since it does not exist in law, that means that the court is not authorized to confiscate the awards. On the other hand, the court has the right to raise the question of depriving the defendants of all awards. But with whom? The USSR does not exist, nor does the Russian parliament... With a possible witness in the case, the Russian president? Be that as it may, the court ruled that the awards are not to be returned for the time being; their fate is to be decided along with that of the defendants.

The two main motions from the defense —first, that the SCSE case should be returned to the General Prosecutor's Office for additional investigation and then that the case be dismissed—were refused by the court. Differences in defense tactics also emerged here. According to the initial statements made by Gennadiy Yanayev (he opened the list of defendants) and some of his comrades in arms the case cannot be dismissed. It emerged that the defendants are dying for action against their political adversaries and are determined to use the judicial rostrum for this purpose. General Valentin Varennikov was the first to "break," asking the court to dismiss the case against the military. The grounds being that only the USSR General Prosecutor's Office, and not the Russian Prosecutor's Office, had the right to institute criminal proceedings against general officers.

Another general, V. Kryuchkov, opposed this motion. He said that he was not opposed to the case against the other military men being dismissed, but that he himself intended to remain in the dock along with the civilians, seeking a full acquittal. Marshal Dmitriy Yazov concurred.

The statement made by Abdulla Khamzayev, defending G. Yanayev, caused a sensation The lawyer asked for the SCSE case to be dismissed under Article 6 of the Code of Criminal Procedure because of the change of situation (he made that application 7 October). Let me explain that the dismissal of criminal proceedings under this article envisages noting the actual existence of a crime, which at the time of examination no longer poses a public danger. However, the other lawyers and their clients were sharply opposed to this compromise because they intend to seek a full acquittal. G. Yanayev himself rejected his lawyer's motion.

A. Khamzayev explained this unusual move to your IZVESTIYA correspondent by saying that he was thus—by agreement with his client and the other lawyers, incidentally—checking out the court's reaction and the seriousness of the judges' intentions of starting the trial. And that was what he did: The panel of judges rejected all moves for the case to be dismissed on any grounds. Now comes the examination.

Indictment Statement Heard

LD1510215293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1502 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Oct (ITAR-TASS)—The preliminary stage of the trial of the State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE] has been completed. The court has begun hearing the indictment statement. In order not to create a precedent, it was decided to read all five volumes of the indictment in full. Today the history of events leading up to the formation of the SCSE was set out in chronological order.

The court did not deem it necessary to carry out in the initial stage of the trial the study by political scientists which Abdulla Khamzayev, lawyer for [former Soviet Vice President] Gennadiy Yanayev, had suggested conducting before the start of court examination of the SCSE case. This request, supported by all the defendants and their lawyers, envisioned obtaining an expert assessment of whether the draft Union Treaty, which had been due to be signed on 20 August 1991, was in accordance with the results of the March 1991 referendum.

In the defendants' opinion, the experts' conclusion could have been evidence of the legality of the SCSE's actions.

Opposition Deputies Ordered out of Moscow Apartments

LD1510191893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1722 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Opposition deputies have been given three days in which to move out of Moscow apartments they were

provided with for the period of term in parliament. The measure comes as part of Yeltsin's decree 1590 on the removal of social security guarantees to separate deputies, the administration's letter of October 12 and the Mayor of Moscow's instruction of October 14.

Leader of a former opposition faction Nikolay Pavlov said the measure is designed to expel eyewitnesses of the recent rebellion from Moscow and the country's political life by burdening them with the trouble of travelling back home and bringing them under mental pressure.

Although the eviction notices to deputies refusing to join the Yeltsin administration refer to the above papers, these have been sent by Moscow's northwestern prefecture but, as an INTERFAX correspondent was able to ascertain, bear no seal or signature.

Pavlov said many deputies had children at school who were not allowed even to finish up the autumn term. Other problems include one's inability to order a railway container for personal belongings within a matter of three days, two of which fall on the weekend. Besides, the cost of hiring a container to Pavlov's hometown of Tyumen is about Rbs [rubles] 1 Mn [million] at a time when many deputies have found themselves in financial hardship following the suspension of parliament.

Panel Finds Jobs for Ex-Deputies

PM1510133593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Oct 93 p 2

[Report by Georgiy Zadonskiy, chief of Deputies' Job Placement Administration: "Jobs Found for 85 Former Deputies"]

[Text] We know that by an edict of the president, the Ministry of Labor was instructed to organize job placements for deputies, and that a special administration was formed for this purpose. Its chief, Georgiy Zadonskiy, sums up its work.

Of 384 deputies who worked on a permanent basis in the Supreme Soviet, 85 had approached us by 3 October, and a list of their names was sent to the President's Administration.

We certainly counted on more lengthy work, but the October events radically changed the situation. I have to say that we came up against great difficulties, as the jobs offered to the deputies did not suit all of them by any means. Nevertheless, we tried to do everything in our power to use the experience and knowledge of the former deputies more fully.

Now another edict, "On Not Extending State Social Protection Guarantees to Individual Former Russian Federation People's Deputies," has come into force. This notably concerns people's deputies who rejected peaceful methods of resolving the crisis and preferred confrontation to the preparation for elections to the State Duma, and now, as we know, simultaneously to the Federation Council. Henceforth, social guarantees are being extended to the deputies who agreed to receive state guarantees of social protection before 3 October, and discontinued their participation in the sittings of the former Congress of People's Deputies and Russian Federation Supreme Soviet before 3 October.

I know that painstaking work is going on to find jobs for deputies from oblast and kray soviets in the localities too, and I am almost sure that those who want to work will not be left without a job.

Commission Reviews Former Parliament's Draft Laws

LD1510153493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0923 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, 15 Oct—One of the tasks of the Commission for Legislative Proposals attached to the president of the Russian Federation is to preserve the "intellectual potential" of and the legislative acts adopted by the former Russian parliament which were aimed at ensuring the normal functioning of the economy as well as the social and other spheres of the country's life, former people's deputy Mikhail Mityukov, head of the commission, reported. Many such acts were drafted by the now defunct parliament, Doctor of Science Mityukov told an ITAR-TASS correspondent.

He remarked that, of course, he does not include here those laws which were dictated by obvious political motives.

A stock-taking of nearly 150 existing acts is now being completed. They had to be studied and the most pressing of them will be elaborated further and presented to the future Federal Assembly, Mityukov reported. He held the post of chairman of the parliamentary committee on legislation in the former Supreme Soviet, which was later dismissed by Ruslan Khasbulatov on political grounds.

The commission's other task is to create the legal basis for the functioning of the Federal Assembly, Mikhail Mityukov noted. It should draw up standing orders for the State Duma and the Federation Council, draft laws on committees and commissions and on the status of deputies. In short, the legislative norms which aim to ensure efficient functioning of the new legislative body and prevent any irregularities or abuse of power.

The commission is entrusted to develop normative acts for the improvement of the existing legislation. The president has given this commission right to officially submit to his examination drafts of decrees and laws which are to be subsequently examined by the Federal Assembly, as well as to carry out the legal assessement of the legislation drafts prepared by the president's office.

The statute of the commission is currently being drawn up. The number of its members, its tasks and its modus

operandi are being established. Nearly 80 former deputies expressed their wish to become members of the commission. It is expected that representatives of the components of the federation, political parties and associations, manufacturers and entrepreneurs will participate in its work on voluntary basis.

Official Remarks on Local Government Reform

PM1510142593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 1

[Lyudmila Yermakova report under the "Russia Before the Elections" rubric: "Talk of the Representative Branch Being Eliminated at Local Level Is a Lie, Anatoliy Sliva, Deputy Chief of the Russian Federation President's State-Legal Administration, Has Stated"]

[Text] Commenting in an interview with an ITAR-TASS observer on the president's edict "On Reforming the Representative Organs of Power and the Organs of Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation," Anatoliy Sliva stressed that "these organs are not only not being eliminated, but, on the contrary, an attempt is being made to make them more effective and efficient." Their title is unimportant, this will be decided at local level. The main thing is "to preserve diversity with statewide foundations."

The edict states that reform of the representative branch in krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations and organs of local self-government is necessary "to ensure genuine democracy and the implementation of the constitutional principle of the separation of powers." Anatoliy Sliva fleshes out this task as follows: Reform should ensure "the functioning of the Russian state as a federal and at the same time unitary state" and "progress toward the organization of local self-government as the most important stratum on which civil society can largely be based."

This is to say we are talking about "moving forward in the main area—clear demarcation of functions and powers between all levels of power." He focused attention on the fact that "we should not, however, permit all structures to collapse." But we need to move forward "in specific stages, perhaps by taking a series of short steps."

Anatoliy Sliva reported that under the edict, a federal state commission on issues pertaining to the reform of organs of representative power and organizations of local self-government has been established, headed by Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray, and A. Sliva himself is a member of this commission. The commission is to formulate and submit to the president proposals for organizing new organs and legal backup for elections to these organs. A fairly tight time frame has been laid down for this—by 15 October. The first proposals will be submitted by this date, but subsequent work by the commission "is not being excluded." It has not been ruled out that a series of acts will be adopted at various levels—both at the Federal level (the president and government), and at the level of the components of the Federation.

The commission works by taking into account the experience of the components of the Federation and proposals from the regions. "We are directly in touch by fax," Anatoliy Sliva noted, announcing that there have already been a number of replies. For example, a draft structure for organs of local power has arrived from Chita Oblast Soviet, where there is a proposal to call the oblast organ the oblast assembly of people's representatives.

In the opinion of the lawyers on the commission, the new organs should be elected for a short term—for up to approximately two years. Regarding the time frame for the elections, the most likely recommendation is that these should be moved back to March, Anatoliy Sliva noted. But in some regions, for example in Moscow, elections are slated for December.

Anatoliy Sliva stressed that in reforming representative organs at local level, account should be taken not just of the experience of other countries and old Russia, where local self-government was well developed, but also the experience of new Russia, including studies produced by the former Supreme Soviet. He issued a reminder that laws were adopted on local self-government and on kray and oblast administrations. "These are lying on our desk," A. Sliva noted, adding that "what does not contradict the new reforms" is being taken into account.

Government Members' Activities Updated

PM1510132593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch: Monitoring"]

[Text]**Meetings, Sessions, Trips**

On the morning of 14 October, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin held a conference with his deputies. They discussed the economic situation in the country. Then the government head met with representatives of a number of Russian youth organizations and entrepreneurial organizations. The meeting discussed the implementation of state youth policy and outlined specific measures to resolve youth problems. In the afternoon Viktor Chernomyrdin flew to Astrakhan.

First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko participated in the Russian Federation Government head's conference and then on the afternoon of 14 October met with Oleg Poptsov, general director of the All-Russian State Television and Radio Company.

First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets has concluded his visit to France, during which documents on cooperation in a number of spheres of industry were signed. Oleg Soskovets returned to Moscow on the evening of 14 October.

First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar joined his colleagues at the government head's conference and then dealt with current business.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha is accompanying the Russian Government head on his Astrakhan trip. Moreover, during the visit the vice premier will attend a conference on agricultural and ecological issues of the rational use of the environment and socioeconomic development of the Caspian Sea area, which will take place in Astrakhan. He will also look at the progress being made in agrarian reform in the region.

After the morning conference with the Russian premier, Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray held two conferences. The first was on questions of constitutional reform in the country and the other was about elaborating proposals on the organization of new organs of representative power and local self-government and also on providing the juridical framework for elections to these organs.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin met with the prime minister of Tatarstan. At the meeting they discussed the future development of bilateral economic links.

Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays met with the chairman of the Chuvashia Council of Ministers and the chairman of that republic's State Property Committee. At the meeting they discussed privatization problems in the republic.

Vice Premier Boris Fedorov was handling current business.

Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov attended a session of the commission handling the funerals of the victims of the 3-4 October events in Moscow. In the afternoon, the vice premier met with the Health Ministry leadership. There was a discussion of a wide range of questions concerning, in particular, supplies of drugs and medical equipment for the country's clinics and hospitals.

The CIS headquarters in Moscow saw the first working meeting of experts under the Commonwealth countries' program on the general terms and support mechanism for the development of coproduction and direct links between CIS states' enterprises and sectors. A draft agreement was elaborated and agreed.

Talks

A Russian-Moldovan meeting of state and government heads will probably take place 19 October. This was announced by Russian Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin and his Moldovan colleague Valentin Kunev after their Moscow talks. According to V. Kunev, "documents connected with Moldova's former Union debt and with payments in the energy complex" are to be prepared for the summit meeting.

Cadres

A government directive has been issued authorizing the Russian Federation Agriculture Ministry to have nine deputy ministers, inluding two first deputies. Aleksey Chernyshev has been appointed first deputy agriculture minister.

Pronouncements

This year Russia has "drastically cut centralized, state-organized" imports of basic commodities, and in 1994 it intends to abandon them altogether, Russian Federation Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha said. At the same time, he stressed that commercial organizations will "most likely" continue to buy food abroad and supply it to the Russian market.

Conversion

A precarious situation is developing in the sphere of funding for the state defense order. The heads of leading enterprises involved in the defense order, with whom Andrey Kokoshin, Russian first deputy defense minister, met 11 through 14 October, proposed a number of measures to retain the most valuable specialists, given the chronic undersupply of funds to acquire defense products and conduct scientific research and development.

Yeltsin, Government Decrees Reported

PM1510151593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Oct 93 p 2

["From the Work Table" column]

[Text] **The President**

Following the adoption of the Russian Federation Law "On the Copyright and Related Rights," a situation took shape whereby authors who already had contracts with the Russian Intellectual Property Agency decided to create an autonomous nongovernmental organization to manage their property rights on a collective basis. The president has recognized that this idea is fair, and, by his Edict "On State Policy in the Sphere of the Protection of Copyright and Related Rights," has abolished the Russian Intellectual Property Agency. Instead, the implementation and protection of copyright for the scientific and creative Russian intelligentsia will be carried out by the Russian Authors' Society, which is under the patronage of the president. The new society will also be the successor of the Russian Intellectual Property Agency in respect of property and nonbudget financial resources in all its ruble and currency accounts.

Under the Edict of the President "On Drafting for Military Service Russian Federation Citizens Who Have Reached Draft Age Studying in the Daytime Department of Educational Establishments in Primary and Higher Professional Education," there will be an extra recruitment of draftees this fall. The ranks of the Armed Forces (which have thinned significantly following the adoption of the Law "On Military Service and Military Service Obligation," which restricted the term of service in individual ranks [as published] of troops to 18 months), will be supplemented with students from technical schools and trade institutes. This measure was undoubtedly an enforced one, since, following the transfer to the reserve of servicemen from the 1991-1992 draft this fall, the Russian Army will lose another 30 percent of its

personnel, which cannot fail to affect its combat readiness. However, when the Army transfers to a contract basis, the need for such actions will disappear.

By the Edict "On the Russian Federation Constitutional Court," Boris Yeltsin has suspended its activity until the new Basic Law is adopted. However, the members of the Constitutional Court have kept all their rights and guarantees. Constitutional Court Acting Chairman Nikolay Vitruk has been instructed to ensure the activity of the court apparatus in preparing the proposals to the Federal Assembly on new forms of implementing constitutional justice. Most probably the Constitutional Court will be reorganized into a Constitutional Collegium within the Supreme Court.

The Government

Viktor Chernomyrdin has signed the Decree "On Handling Transactions Involving Russian Federation Pension Fund Accounts." The document aims to create a regime for the more efficient settlement of questions involving the transfer of monies for the payment of pensions and subsidies, which, in the face of inflationary instability, has an undoubted social orientation.

As we know, as of 22 September of this year, the Russian Federation Pension Fund has been subordinate to the Russian Government. At the same time, by a Government Decree "On Urgent Measures To Ensure Financial Stability" dated 22 September of this year, it was recommended that the Central Bank should handle transactions involving Pension Fund accounts only after coordination with the Russian Ministry of Finance, which has made the procedure for the payment of these monies substantially more difficult. The present government decree has canceled the previous directive.

The adoption of the Decree "On Prices on Baby Food Products" is the latest step taken by the government to reduce expenditure items in the federal budget. Practically all basic types of baby food, including concentrated food, have been excluded from the list of goods and services to which (under the Edict of the President "On Measures To Stabilize Prices") state regulated prices (tariffs) apply. Understanding that this step will affect the broadest strata of the population and will not make the policies of the executive more popular, the government has envisaged a simultaneous series of measures enabling the consequences of the deregulation of prices of baby food products to be eased. In particular, as of 15 October, compensatory payments will be made from the budget monies of national-state and administrative-territorial formations to families which have children under the age of three, to the tune of 600 rubles per month for each child with subsequent indexation in line with price increases. For enterprises which produce baby food products (irrespective of their organizational-legal forms and types of ownership), the maximum profitability level is established at 20 percent of the total cost.

The creation of film chronicles of the most important state events, as well as the production of educational video films for audio-visual correspondence course [distantsionnogo obucheniya] programs, are tasks which, by a Government Directive "On the Central Documentary Film Studio," been set for the Russian Central Video Studio for Chronicle-Documentary and Educational Films formed on its basis.

Reorganized Department To Have New Chief

MK1510132193 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 1

[Report by Yu.L. under the "In Brief" rubric: "Reorganization in Government Staff"]

[Text] Further to a decree by Council of Ministers Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin, the government staff's department for collaboration with the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and public organizations has been transformed into the department for collaboration with the federal representative authorities and public organizations. It is worth noting that the department will be headed by Professor Vladimir Ostapchenko, who is considered an experienced lawyer and a good organizer. Before him, these functions were performed by Aleksandr Torshin, who actively cooperated with organizations of patriotic and pan-Slavic orientation.

Faults in Current Power Structures Viewed

MK1510142093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 1

[Vitaliy Marsov report under the "Power" rubric: "First Cracks in The Victors' Single Camp. The Best Way To Save Yourself Is To Pass the Buck"]

[Text] Sure enough, this thing is here—I mean "showdowns" as the victors now call them. Who was where, who did what (or did not do), who gave (or did not give) the order.

Victory is known to have many fathers while defeat is an orphan. If this is victory, why is it that nobody wants to say: I decided, I gave the order, I worked out this plan, I worked out that one? It is perhaps because of the reluctance to answer for spilled blood.

(Interestingly, many say this: This should have been done before to avoid such casualties, and I put this forward. That is to say, I want victory, not casualties. I love peace, I am a non-resistance man, and a vegetarian on the whole. No matter if this comes earlier or later you cannot avoid casualties).

Thus, just two concrete and rather secondary-importance problems have been solved. Parliament, which opposed the government, has been eliminated—now the government may operate as it sees fit. Leaders of the irreconcilable opposition have been arrested and leaders of the "reconcilable" opposition are temporarily demoralized. All the other problems remain (including opposition itself), while many new ones have arisen—

including the problem of responsibility of specific persons and institutions for all that happened, as well as for what is happening today, and for what is going to happen tomorrow.

This unleashed claims gushing forth from the democratic public, the army, the Internal Affairs Ministry, the Security Ministry, the Ostankino television company, and the president to each other. The fall of the parliament, which was expected to rally the democratic-reform camp taken as a whole and its separate parts, only developed fresh rifts. The smartest among the priests of victory think they will be able to shake off responsibility by finding "new enemies." In Ostankino these enemies are Lyubimov and Politkovskiy. Generally in Moscow they are "persons of Caucasian nationality" (it is amazing how fast the racist slogans from the White House have been taken over by the Moscow administration and the forces of law and order—this alone should have disturbed the government of multinational Russia at least out of consideration for their own safety and for preserving the country's integrity).

The apotheosis of the campaign of infighting has not begun yet, although it is dawning. Now one and now another high-ranking member of the Russian Administration makes it understood directly or indirectly: the president should call his elections on 11-12 December as well. The president, if you judge by the strength of his remark in Tokyo, is disinclined to see these hints as concern for his victory in the elections, especially if it is guaranteed and the more so the earlier they take place. He promised to fire the authors of the proposals immediately, but you cannot fire all of them, as the saying goes.

Those who advocate simultaneous elections for parliament and president under present conditions (this is bad under normal conditions) have many serious arguments of course. Behind their impatience there is surely more than these arguments. The crushing of parliament and the opposition carried out in the name of preserving the executive authority as guarantor of reforms and the country's integrity leaves no room for detecting faults in this authority, faults that would invariably crop up no matter how long we close our eyes to them. The first who point to these faults are precisely those who are part of the system of this authority. They point to them because they surely hate to take upon themselves, or upon themselves alone, the responsibility for all that happened.

In this is the paradox of the present position—the paradox of blood. It is easier to spill it than to later admit to it. Even if this blood were in revenge. Because everything happens in one country, in one society, among the citizens of one country.

The results? They are two. The present power structures have become hostage to their own decision: They cannot go back, while moving forward can be safe for them only if their rule becomes more authoritarian. The main hostage is Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Naturally enough, among the people close and not so close to him there would appear more and more people for whom the only chance to emerge unscathed (even if they are not guilty of anything and on the contrary they resisted the course of events) is the resignation of the Big Master. Incidentally, I think that Yegor Gaydar, too, would not be forgiven precisely for taking upon himself the responsibility in that situation—such things are not forgiven.

All that happens at any time and at any place must have happened sometime and some place. The proverbial "measuring by one's own bushel" does not apply here at all. In this sense it is no more than a beautiful phrase.

Poll Shows Majority Favors Banning Communist Party

LD1710084993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0645 GMT 17 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Suldin]

[Text] Moscow October 17 TASS—The October events were the focus of attention in an opinion poll taken among more than 1,000 respondents by the Mneniye (opinion) poll service.

When asked what punishment the organisers of armed revolt in moscow deserve, every fifth respondent spoke for death penalty, and every eighth for life imprisonment. Approximately the same proportion of respondents spoke of a prison term of more than ten years. Every fourth said "I do not know".

An absolute majority of respondents—more than 66 per cent—answered in the negative in response to the question of whether it is necessary to hold a demonstration in the Red Square on November 7.

Asked whether the Communist Party should be banned completely, almost 52 per cent of the people asked answered in the affirmative. Every fourth said the Communist Party is needed in this country.

More than a half of respondents favoured the removal of the guard of honour from Lenin Mausoleum, although almost one-third believe that this is an incorrect decision.

Zhirinovskiy Interviewed on Recent Events, Elections

AU1610132293 Prague CESKY DENIK in Czech 12 Oct 93 p 5

[Interview with Liberal Democratic Party Chairman Vladimir Zhirinovskiy "prepared by" Ctirad Svitak in Moscow; date not given: "So Far, No One Has Invited Us To Prague"]

[Text] Barely a week has gone by since the trouncing of the armed communist uprising in Moscow, and not all the victims have been buried. However, the left-wing and liberal intellectual camps are already issuing appeals in the same breath for leniency toward its organizers and

warnings that Russia again faces the prospect of dictatorship by a single political force. Allegations about the systematic elimination of the opposition are also made in the interview granted by Liberal Democratic Party Chairman Vladimir Zhirinovskiy to CESKY DENIK.

[CESKY DENIK] From your party's point of view, what is your assessment of the events that took place a couple of weekends ago?

[Zhirinovskiy] From the strategic point of view, it was necessary to wipe the communist regime from the political scene. It has turned out that forces that only recently served within the CPSU have won the credit for its defeat. For our "democrats"—that is, all those Yeltsin, Gaydar, and people like them—are former communists. The pink bolsheviks put down the red ones. The fact that this happened by means of armed clashes does not gladden us. Perhaps it would have been possible to achieve the same result differently. It is symbolic that the communist regime, which seized power by force, was itself removed by force.

[CESKY DENIK] How do you view future political developments in the country?

[Zhirinovskiy] We positively assess this—perhaps definitive—step on the road toward political plurality and a multiparty system. Even if those who are now in power do not arouse much sympathy among us and our party members. We share few of their views and we do not support them. Therefore, we feel no great joy in connection with recent events, especially as people lost their lives.

[CESKY DENIK] You now speak of the necessity of wiping out communism. In the summer, however, you were seen at communist demonstrations on the same platform as the leaders of the National Salvation Front, Makashov and Konstantinov....

[Zhirinovskiy] I support many of their ideas even now. First and foremost, as far as Russian patriotism is concerned. This is not their communist ideology with red banners and Lenin symbols, but ideas associated with creating a strong Russian homeland. We were prepared to cooperate with them in this regard. The same applies in regard to the complete democratization of society. We are prepared to cooperate with those who are now in power. We are prepared to cooperate with various political forces in individual issues—even with ultra-left-wingers and ultra-right-wingers. However, we also have our own program and our own concept for changes in the country.

[CESKY DENIK] You know the leaders of the National Salvation Front. In your opinion, why in the end—in the moments they had long dreamed about—did they abandon the initiative to Khasbulatov and Rutskoy?

[Zhirinovskiy] Yes, I knew them fairly well and I know that in their party—within the Front—a constant battle was being waged for the top spot. Our party did not become a full-fledged member of the Front, because they were afraid that I would also campaign for such an important post. In general, there were far too many leaders among them—a total of 17. Khasbulatov and Rutskoy also had their ambitions. As a consequence of all of this, they did not succeed in forming an orchestra with a good conductor.

[CESKY DENIK] What is your position on Yeltsin's decree dissolving the soviets and on the new elections to the local self- administrations?

[Zhirinovskiy] I agree with this decision. It is necessary to change all the leaderships in the country. We absolutely need elections. Real elections, because in the former elections, people did not vote for experts, but for those who were good at criticizing the former regime. Perhaps, the newly elected deputies will also have to depart the scene prematurely. However, there will not be anything terrible about this. Maybe we will reach a point, in 1996 or 1997, where there will be a normal political situation in our country.

[CESKY DENIK] What you said at the Liberal Democratic Party conference in April has stuck in my mind. You said: "My opponents accuse me of being a KGB agent. This is not true. I wanted to be an agent, but they did not accept me." What do you think of the idea—already broached in Moscow—that all candidates for the posts of deputy must undergo screenings?

[Zhirinovskiy] What form of screenings do you have in mind? It is being said that former party functionaries should not campaign for and hold posts in which they could influence public opinion.... I agree with this. In this we are clean; so this issue is not a problem for me. However, understandably, any restrictions on the right to campaign curb civic freedom. Nevertheless, in our case, screenings could serve as therapy for our society. I repeat once again, this does not bother me.

[CESKY DENIK] People refer to you as a supporter of the strong arm of the state. What is your philosophy in this respect?

[Zhirinovskiy] We support democracy, but within the framework of a strong and wealthy state. We do not agree with democracy for the elite alone. We favor the kind of democracy that defends the interests of the absolute majority and, at the same time, that is based on a specific patriotic platform. We do not want a USSR or a CIS, but—on the contrary—a strong Russian state.

[CESKY DENIK] With what kind of economic orientation?

[Zhirinovskiy] The kind that is currently normal throughout the world, that is, a mixed—both state and private—economy. There has to be maximum freedom both in the economy and in other spheres, such a culture and politics.

[CESKY DENIK] Will you campaign in the presidential elections?

[Zhirinovskiy] Of course, I will. I will also run for parliament. If the electorate does not vote for us and we do not win, then I will campaign in future elections.... Political processes are like the weather. Sometimes it is cold, then it is hot, light, dark, and everything is constantly changing.

[CESKY DENIK] Were your people at the White House?

[Zhirinovskiy] No, they were not. They did not support the current government either at the White House or at the Kremlin. We are an ordinary opposition party. We neither support nor protect anyone. We are waiting for the elections in which the voters will choose their own path.

[CESKY DENIK] A few months ago, however, a great deal was being loudly proclaimed about your specialists in subversion, who had left for Iraq....

[Zhirinovskiy] Nothing of the kind happened. The mass media invented everything. Some of our people are currently in Iraq, but only within the framework of an exchange between political parties. They are attending conferences and taking part in political events there. However, they are not participating in military operations anywhere. Everything came out because we saw them off ceremonially with flowers and an orchestra. All the rumors about our storm troopers in Bosnia or Abkhazia are nonsense.

[CESKY DENIK] Why do you send your people to political events in Iraq?

[Zhirinovskiy] We simply have contacts there. Now we have also acquired them in Bulgaria. We go where we are invited. When we are invited to Prague, we will go to Prague. However, so far, we have not received an invitation from the Czech Republic....

Election Issues

Yeltsin To Form 'Public Commission' for Elections

LD1610205293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] A public commission for holding parliamentary elections is to be set up shortly by a presidential decree. Foreign observers are to take part in the work of the commission. According to the INTERFAX agency, this was stated at a news conference on Saturday [16 October] by Sergey Filatov, head of the presidential administration.

He also spoke about the activities of the working group finalizing the draft of the new Basic Law drawn up by the Constitutional Conference. The group is to study some 400 amendments and proposals submitted by constituent parts of the [Russian] Federation. It will also take into account the lessons of the Moscow rebellion.

Yeltsin Considers Allowing Officials To Sit in Duma

LD1710084293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0600 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] The Russian president is preparing an edict on the possibility of combining a post in the government with the mandate of a deputy to the state duma. Sergey Yushenkov has informed journalists about this. The existing legislation says that a member of the government must resign if his name is on the list of candidates he must resign. At the present time, the direct ban on combining jobs in this way is also included in the regulations on the elections to the state duma that have been adopted by the president. The same norms are also included in the draft constitution.

Federation Council Election Detailed

LD1710190393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1731 GMT 17 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Dzybulo]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Oct—The official texts of President Yeltsin's decree and the provision on elections to the Federation Council—the supreme chamber of Russia's Federal Assembly—were today released to ITAR-TASS channels. The new Russian parliament's lower chamber will be the State Duma, the provision on the elections to which was ratified by a presidential decree earlier.

The elections to the Federation Council, like those to the Duma, are also appointed for 12 December. In keeping with the provision on them, two deputies from each of the subjects of the Russian Federation (of which there are 89 in Russia today) are elected to the upper chamber of Russian parliament. Federation Council deputies are elected on the basis of the majority system for two-mandate (one constituency—two candidates) constituencies being formed in the framework of the administrative borders of the Russian Federation subjects.

Candidates may be nominated to the Federation Council, as to the Duma, by groups of electors or electoral associations (not more than two candidates in each constituency). A Russian Federation citizen who has reached the age of 21 years may be elected a deputy of the Federation Council. A citizen who is registered as a candidate to the State Duma may not be nominated as candidate deputy to the Federation Council.

Presidential Council member Emil Pain, asked by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina to forecast the development of events after the decree on elections to the Federation Council, noted that in the period of the election campaign now under way, all political blocs would regroup ranks and "throw their main forces into occupying the posts of 'senators' in the upper chamber of parliament." The difficulty for the political blocs would consist in the fact that the elections to the Federation Council were being conducted in accordance with the

majority system, i.e. candidates to the upper chamber would have to campaign in an individual capacity albeit with the support of parties.

In keeping with the provision on the federal bodies of power, the lower chamber of the Federal Assembly—the State Duma—only elaborates the laws, while the upper chamber—the Federation Council—approves them. Thus, it is for the seats of the influential "Lords" and "Senators", as Pain put it, that the main struggle of the political elites will be fought.

Yeltsin Aide on President's Election Plans

MK1510131593 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 13/15, 15-21 Oct 93 (signed to press 14 Oct) p 1

[Interview with Georgiy Satarov, Russian presidential adviser, by Yelena Dikun: "The President Got Angry Because a Trump Was Knocked Out of His Hands"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] On 13 October a hitch occurred at the president's press conference in Japan. A Japanese journalist, citing a TASS report, asked Yeltsin to explain how his stated position agrees with the words of his adviser: that parliamentary elections should be held simultaneously with presidential elections and moved to a later date. "Give me the name of that adviser and he will be fired," the president roared. On hearing that it was Satarov, Boris Nikolayevich moderated his reaction somewhat, saying that when he returns, he will straighten things out. What is behind this story? When the TV broadcast of the press conference ended, our correspondent contacted Georgiy Aleksandrovich.

[Satarov] I think that the president has reacted not to "Satarov" but to the subject of elections. At present he needs only one thing—to keep his options open until an opportune moment. Please note the formulation related to elections. On the one hand, the president says that he will be up for election on 12 June; on the other, that this will be decided by the Federation Assembly. In a word, Yeltsin wants to make his decision public at the most unexpected moment for his opponents in order to raise the value of his trump card to the maximum. Moreover, the indications are that initially he decided that this will be done by a person from his administration, since the president associates the word "adviser" primarily with this structure and not with the Presidential Council. I do not think that he has correctly identified my name (people who know him well say that he has a bad memory for names), but he obviously softened on learning that the strike had not come from his immediate entourage.

[Dikun] Do you really think that the elections should be moved to a later date?

[Satarov] Prior to 21 September people from the president's immediate entourage repeatedly consulted me over possible election dates and I had conversations on this score directly with Yeltsin himself. I invariably said that this year normal elections are unrealistic. The TASS report cited by that Japanese journalist (he did not convey its content accurately enough) said first, that presidential elections could be held at the same time with the elections to regional representative power bodies but not with elections to the Federal Assembly. And second, that the elections scheduled for 12 December are not necessary for anyone. The president does not revise their dates only out of fear that inside and outside the country he will be accused of seeking to extend presidential rule. The only thing that can justify him in the public eye is bringing the date of his own election closer, which would be expedient in all respects. I am not the only one who adheres to this point of view. For instance, the same evening, 13 October, Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko also spoke on TV in favor of simultaneous presidential elections, offering, however, a somewhat different scheme.

[Dikun] Yet do you not think that the incident at the press conference was a put-up job in order to get you removed from the Presidential Council?

[Satarov] I am not a figure that represents any political forces and therefore there is no reason to organize a plot against me. You attach too much importance to this. As for a place on the Presidential Council, that would not be crucial to me. If it were an element of a political career, that would be another matter. But I repeat: There is no question about that—I have been a research worker and will remain one. Moreover, I was invited to the Presidential Council as a person with an independent position and I was required there only in that capacity.

Official Describes Work of Election Commission

MK1510150093 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 13/15, 15-21 Oct 93 (signed to press 14 Oct) p 1

[Interview with Aleksandr Ivanchenko, deputy chairman of the Central Electoral Commission for the elections to the Federal Assembly, by Yelena Dikun under the "View From an Office" rubric: "We Are Moving Right According to Schedule... Even Ahead of It"]

[Text] [Dikun] Would you please introduce members of the Central Electoral Commission. Who are these people, and how was this commission formed?

[Ivanchenko] The Central Electoral Commission, which was set up on 29 September, was formed on a priority basis: 10 members were nominated by the representative authorities of the Federation components, and another 10 by the executive authorities. All members of our commission are professionals—lawyers, people who have dealt with elections before and have the appropriate experience. We have strictly insisted that chairmen of district electoral commissions also be law specialists.

[Dikun] Under the regulation on elections, district commissions must be formed at the initiative of the executive and representative authorities, and the latter have found themselves in a delicate situation. Some soviets have dissolved themselves, others are hanging in the balance. How can this collision be overcome?

[Ivanchenko] We should not dramatize the situation. In reality it is not as complex as may seem at first glance from Moscow. Of course, we are putting the main emphasis on cooperation with administrations. District commissions, however, will also be formed on a priority basis, because there are local self-government bodies, whose existence has not been questioned by anyone. If there is any crisis, it exists at the level of the Federation components, but there has never been a fight for power at the level of local self-government. In addition, local self-government bodies are closest to the electorate, so it is they who nominate their candidates. For instance, in the territory of Maritime Kray, there is at least around 1,000 local self-government bodies. You see, worthy candidates could well be found among so many people.

[Dikun] Is it feasible to complete everything within the short time reserved for elections? When this decision was made, it was justified. But now we have a different situation—why such haste?

[Ivanchenko] I do not see any rush or haste. We are moving right according to the schedule drawn up on the basis of the regulation on elections, even ahead of it. I hope that by 20 October the question of district electoral commissions will be resolved.

[Dikun] Your workload has increased, however, owing to the elections to the Council of the Federation...

[Ivanchenko] We expressed our suggestions and they were taken into account, so that the procedure for holding elections to the Council of the Federation, the voting procedure, will be similar to that for the State Duma. Our workload did increase, but we are ready for even more.

[Dikun] Even if you are burdened with presidential elections after the president's return from Japan? And a referendum on the constitution? To speak nothing of elections to local representative authorities. Will you be able to cope with all this?

[Ivanchenko] We have been given an opportunity to create a permanent staff of the Central Electoral Commission. Relying on it and on district commissions, it will be possible to organize all this as well. A dog's bark is worse than its bite.

As for the referendum on the constitution, if we elect deputies to the State Duma and the Council of the Federation, they will need a legal framework to do their work, a constitution on the basis of which they would be able to do the lawmaking.

The main problem was a lack of structures that would conduct elections on the ground. Presently we are just laying these foundations that will operate on a permanent, professional basis, as, for instance, is the case in the West. They have regular officials there who deal only with electoral affairs, and voters lists are updated every two weeks.

[Dikun] The tight election schedule, however, has put candidates to deputy seats in a difficult position. They will simply have no time to launch their election campaigns.

[Ivanchenko] It is the parties that nominate the candidates that will have to take care of their election campaigns. For them, this will be a test of their maturity of sorts, of their ability to act promptly.

[Dikun] Who will supervise the elections?

[Ivanchenko] The progress of the election campaign will be supervised in the first instance by the Central Electoral Commission. As soon as candidates are nominated according to the federal list, additional members may be included in our commission without voting rights. For instance, representatives of the parties whose candidates have done well.

Actions of our commission could be appealed at the Supreme Court. Actions of district commissions could be appealed both at our commission and the appropriate courts. So there is a mechanism of judicial protection. However, it is the voters, political parties, and people collecting signatures who will bear administrative, criminal, and, importantly, moral responsibility. It should be noted that in most countries violations of the [electoral] legislation entail very severe punishment. The state defends constitutional relations—and elections fall into this category—with major responsibility. For it is authority and the formation of its structures that is at stake.

Fedorov Favors Combining Executive, Duma Posts

LD1510150693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1325 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow October 15 TASS—Russian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Boris Fedorov has supported the idea of the combining of posts in the executive structures and the future Federal Assembly. The idea was put forward by Sergey Shakhray at a press conference on Thursday.

Fedorov stressed in an ITAR-TASS interview that in Britain, for example, a person who is not a member of parliament cannot hold a ministerial post. As for the constitutional principle of the division of authority in Russia, he believes the system was adopted by Russia without sufficient reasons from the united states, a country with well-developed 200-year-old democracy.

According to Fedorov, as a result of the observance of the principle of the division of authority "a significant and the best part of members of parliament went over to

the executive structures", and it would be unreasonable to bar those people from running for the Federal Assembly.

Responding to the question of ITAR-TASS whether he himself will run for one of the chambers of the Federal Assembly, Fedorov said: "if a decision is taken permitting the combining of posts, why not?"

Gaydar Opposes Simultaneous Elections

LD1510151893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Russian Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar shares President Yeltsin's view that presidential and parliamentary elections should not be held simultaneously on December 12.

"Numerous arguments are advanced in favor of simultaneous early elections. They are dictated by political tactics. The president, however, wants to maintain political stability. I think this is a responsible decision by the president, not a presidential candidate."

Yegor Gaydar told journalists that today "there is a strong possibility that human rights will be violated as the emergency rule continuous. This is a serious danger and should not be allowed."

Gaydar said that membership in both parliament and government at once should be allowed in some cases so as to avoid political confrontation between the legislative and executive branches. In his view, "in our Russian context this would help resolve some possible differences between parliament and government. This would be a viable arrangement."

Kozyrev Comments on Elections, Foreign Policy

LD1510204593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733 GMT 15 Oct 93

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[Text] **KOZYREV ON HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS AND ON "RUSSIA'S CHOICE"**

Contrary to his earlier statements, Russia's Foreign Minister, Andrei Kozyrev, will consent to be a candidate for elections to the National Council (Duma), if the Russia's Choice bloc of democratic forces takes such decision. The head of Russian diplomacy announced this on Friday [15 October] in answer to a question from INTERFAX at a session held by the Moscow Press Club.

"There has been no Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) for two years, but we have already forgotten what party discipline is like," the foreign minister said.

Kozyrev also answered in the affirmative another question from INTERFAX's correspondent: on the possibility for cabinet ministers to serve in the government and in the parliament at the same time. The "allergy" to this was caused by the omnipotence of the CPSU, he said. "At one time the ban on holding more than one office was necessary, because it undermined the monopoly of Communist power. Now, however, Russia is in another phase of its development," Kozyrev explained.

With reference to Russia's Choice, Kozyrev, one of its co-founders, said: "It's extremely important, particularly in the wake of direct confrontation between the democratic and the communist-fascist forces, for the voters to know exactly who are allies and who are antagonists. I am deeply confident that most people in Russia are inclined to continue the process of reforms in one form or another."

The head of Russian diplomacy believes that the existence of "nuances" in the democratic movement, that is the presence of Sergey Shakhray's party, Grigoriy Yavlinsky's structures and other groups in addition to Russia's Choice, is "absolutely normal". "The main thing is for the populace to understand for whom to vote, to prevent those responsible for the bloody squabble outside the Russian White House from getting into parliament," he explained.

According to Kozyrev, Russia's Choice is a broad enough movement "that can and must unite all who stand for reforms and for democracy." "President Boris Yeltsin continues to be the most striking and unifying symbol of these democratic reforms," he said.

ON WORLD REACTION TO THE TRAGIC EVENTS IN MOSCOW, ON POSSIBLE CHANGES IN RUSSIA'S FOREIGN POLICY, AND ON EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN THE MILITARY AND POLICE

With reference to the recent tragic events in Moscow the foreign minister noted that the G-7 countries and the European Community "collectively and individually" expressed support for President Yeltsin's decree on gradual constitutional reforms and for the measures he took to suppress the rebellion. There were different interpretations only in comments by the press in Russia and abroad. But this is a "sign of a healthy society" interested in not overstepping "the limits of democracy," Kozyrev said.

When asked about changes in Russia's foreign policy, Kozyrev said: "Some readjustment in foreign policy cannot be ruled out, when a new parliament is democratically elected and a new line-up of forces is determined. However I don't think that this will be a radical or drastic change in the basic parameters of this country's foreign policy in the foreseeable future, even with the emergence of a new parliament."

Russia's foreign ministry, he explained, follows "the president's foreign policy which is based on the national interests of this country." "These interests must not be

an object of cheap politicking or political bargaining. I do hope that, unlike its predecessor, our new parliament will avoid this," he said.

According to Kozyrev, even now, during the election campaign, his ministry is prepared to give qualified aid and grant any materials to all parties and organizations, except the openly communist or fascist ones, "so that they could build their election programs, different as they are, on the basis of Russia's national interests professionally understood."

When asked about the possibility of a greater role to be played by the generals in determining Russia's political line in the wake of the recent events in Moscow, Kozyrev said: "Let's wait and see."

According to Kozyrev, "there will be no catastrophic strengthening of the military and police structures," since the source of the president's power is in the people's mandate, not in the military and police structures." "Our generals have proved clearly enough that they perfectly realize the legitimacy of the people's mandate and that they intend to protect that mandate. I don't think that something different can take place," Kozyrev said.

ON RUSSIAN-JAPANESE RELATIONS AND THE TERRITORIAL PROBLEM

Speaking about the territorial problem in Russo-Japanese relations, Kozyrev pointed out that "there are several questions which remain unanswered." "However, there exists a firm understanding that it is necessary to go along a long path. We have made the first positive move: the problem of the Russo-Japanese relations has been resolved. It has been transferred from the stage of blind confrontation which blocked the national-state interests of the Russian Federation in the Far East to the stage of a constructive calm dialogue," said the minister.

At the same time, he said, "the parties have preserved their principal positions and a sound element of variety in their interpretation." "A compromise means the presence of a formula which will give an opportunity to speak and move ahead without making concessions to each other. In this case neither side has yielded to any concession under any pressure and this is the major success of this visit," underlined Kozyrev. "It is important that there is no longer such tough pressure as before, when the Japanese declared: "Give us the islands and you will receive cooperation in all other spheres. If you do not give us islands, there will be no talk about cooperation."

ON THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "TRANSDNIESTRIAN MILITANTS" AND "DEFENDERS OF TRANSDNIESTRIA"

When asked by a correspondent from Moldova about the difference between "Transdniestrian militants" and "Defenders of Transdniestria," Kozyrev said that "militants are bandits." "They have nothing in common either with the national interests of Russia, or with the national interests of any other country. They came to Moscow during the recent tragic events. If we fail to find the way to counteract them and distinguish them from those who defend national interests, they will come again. The party of war will not cease its activity without a struggle," Kozyrev said.

According to the head of Russian diplomacy, those who defend the interests of Transdniestria are "thousands of people who live there and who are concerned over the circumstance that at the early stage of the conflict the historic, demographic and cultural specifics of that territory were largely ignored by Kishinev." "These people have the lawful right to protect their rights, preferably without the use of arms, of course," he said.

"The problem of Transdniestria cannot be confined to victory by the militants, which would be a catastrophe," the foreign minister said. "Neither can it be confined to the possibility of Transdniestria becoming a province of Moldova," he said. "That territory should have a special political, legal and economic status within the unified state of Moldova."

As Kozyrev noted, the same methodological approach should be used in resolving the conflict between Georgia and Abkhazia. In other words, Abkhazia should be granted a special status in the framework of Georgia. "There is no other way out. To recarve the maps of the states that were formed in the space of the former USSR is a sure road to the 'Yugoslav version'," Kozyrev pointed out.

He condemned Abkhazian militants for disrupting the implementation of the Sochi agreements and for practising "ethnic cleansing." "For Russia this is unacceptable," the foreign minister said.

ON HIS UPCOMING VISIT TO PARIS AND ON RUSSIAN-FRENCH "ALLIANCE"

With reference to his visit to Paris scheduled for October 20-21 Kozyrev said that it is timed with the 100th anniversary of the military political alliance between Russia and France. Now "a cordial alliance" between Russia and France is in the making. "However, unlike its last century's predecessor, it is not aimed against Germany or any other country, but serves to strengthen stability in the world," he pointed out.

ON RELATIONS WITH NATO AND ON INTENTIONS OF FORMER USSR ALLIES TO ENTER THIS ORGANIZATION

While speaking about Russia's attitude to NATO, Kozyrev indicated that Russia does not consider this alliance as a "hostile" one and does not rule out the possibility of "joining this organization in the future."

"The main thing is that we are ready to undergo reformation together with NATO and to cooperate in order to strengthen pan-European security."

As far as the intentions of the former USSR's Warsaw Pact allies are concerned, Kozyrev said that all of them are sovereign states. "We do not pursue any Brezhnev doctrine. That is why, during his visit to Warsaw, Russian President Boris Yeltsin declared that 'that's your sovereign affair to decide, and if you want to join NATO, present your statement'," reminded the minister.

At the same time, as Kozyrev said, Russia proposes to NATO and to the states of Eastern and Central Europe "to think over, is there any need to enter via an open door or [doe ¦] there exist some other variants." "The major thing is what we want to gain from this. If NATO expands, not against Russia but without it, will it be a positive factor for European stability? I am not quite sure," said the minister.

In addition, one should clarify "real threats" existing in Europe today. "Currently there is no confrontation between East and the West. And aggressive nationalism and local conflicts, Yugoslavian, Transdniestrian, and Abkhazian, present major threats. How will Poland's admission to NATO help us to settle these conflicts? I do not totally understand this. That's why I say: 'The door is open but let's not force an open door. Let us solve concrete and important common tasks and let us think how to do it better'," said Kozyrev.

'Itogi' Previews Elections

LD1810080693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0636 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow October 18 ITAR-TASS—The Sunday [17 October] issue of the television analytical news bulletin Itogi centred around the beginning of the new election campaign in Russia.

According to the programme's host Yevgeniy Kiselev, last week brought about changes to the terms of the forthcoming elections to Russia's new legislature. One such change was Russian President Boris Yeltsin's decision to make the Federation Council, the upper house of the new parliament, the parliamentary assembly elective. Members will be elected both to the Federation Council and the lower chamber, the State Duma.

Some 100 different parties, movements and organisations will contest 176 seats in the Federation Council and 450 seats in the State Duma. According to Kiselev, "Russia's Choice" is the most powerful party bloc running in the elections.

The bloc, which held its constituent congress in Moscow at the weekend, was established not only "to fight for seats in the new parliament but also to become the ruling party after the elections".

Speaking about the possible allies and opponents of the new bloc, Russia's First Vice-Premier Yegor Gaydar said that "a bloc of communists and radical nationalists is emerging after re-grouping" in Russia.

Yevgeniy Kiselev also touched upon the date of the elections for the parliament and the possible date of the elections to the presidency. He cited the results of a survey of 1,000 people across Russia conducted by the Public Opinion Fund last week. He said some 45 per cent of those polled called for simultaneous elections on December 12. Along with this, 36 per cent were against simultaneous elections and 18 per cent had not made up their minds.

Prominent economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy spoke about the elections, too. He noted that "a party and government bloc exists which in conditions of the authoritarian regime naturally has a special position in society". Yavlinskiy said it was necessary to create another bloc on the basis of such parties as the Christian Democratic Union and the Republican Party to act as an opposition to the Russia's Choice movement. "This country, our Russia, cannot exist without a parliament", Yavlinskiy said. "Otherwise, a Mafia-like boundlessness will prevail, if only the executive exists". It is necessary to create a parliament made up of "wise, worthy, Russian people and people from all over Russia capable of working effectively within the parliamentary power and capable of opposing the government," he said.

As concerns the attitude towards the bodies of representative power, i.e., soviets, in different regions of the Russian Federation, one of the experts who took part in the Itogi programme, said that the soviets in the Siberian region, particularly in the Novosibirsk, Tyumen and Kemerovo oblasts are taking firm positions which "do not coincide with those prevailing among the voters". He said that another "bulwark of soviet power in Russia's south is the black earth zone", as well as "the northern Caucasus and the foothills of the Caucasus", where the soviets are pursuing a hardline "anti-presidential policy and are backed by the majority of the population".

President Mintimer Shaymiyev of Tatarstan said in an interview with Itogi that he backed the latest actions of the Russian president and was ready to begin an election campaign for the State Duma. "Tatarstan has always been for a close unit with the Russian Federation, but only with a renovated Russian Federation, with renovated relations. This stand remains unchanged", he said. As concerns Tatarstan's parliament, Shaymiyev said no one was going to disband the soviets, and "there will be no self-dissolution".

Turning back to the violence in Moscow on October 3-4, Itogi broadcast an interview with the presidential adviser on defence matters, Colonel-General Dmitriy Volkogonov who was deputy chief of the special operation group set up to suppress the armed uprising in Moscow in those days. Asked whether he saw the uprising as a well-planned action, Volkogonov said that information about the possible attempts at taking over power in Moscow in late September or early October had

begun to flow in much earlier. The White House chieftains believed that the Army would either remain neutral or back the mutineers, he said. They hoped to capture "the mayor's office, then one of the ministries, then the Security Ministry. Had we failed to take decisive measures, most of the state structures could have passed over to their hands within 24 hours, and that would unleash a virtual civil war, Volkogonov said. He added that the decision to storm the White House was made by the president, the defence minister and the prime minister of the country.

'Russia's Choice' Holds Congress, Prepares for Elections

Congress Opens

LD1610111293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0950 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Report by Aleksandr Ruvinskiy]

[Excerpts] I must say that the congress has been working here, at the building of cinema employees on Vasilyevskaya Street, for the last hour and a half. [passage omitted]

The congress was opened by Sergey Adamovich Kovalev, our famous lawyer, by decision of the organizing committee. He said that this day should become a day of genuine consolidation of democratic forces. Sergey Adamovich spoke in detail about the forthcoming elections. He said that they should be the first genuinely free elections, and there will be attempts, no doubt, to undermine them. In his opinion, the elections should be as honest as possible, and the rules of the game should be the same for anyone who is prepared for fair play.

Main reports then followed. The first report was by Yegor Gaydar. He devoted his report to the assessment of the situation in the country. He noted that the state had been on the brink of civil war, on the brink of pro-fascist forces usurping power. He then dwelt on the tactics that should presently be employed by the government and the president. He stated that the president and the government decided to be guided by practical goals, not just by pre- election goals. In other words, we are still talking about a rigid financial policy, but this will give political opponents a trump card. They can now launch a mechanism of empty promises.

Gaydar expressed great anxiety about what our future parliament is going to be like. He said that we might still get a rather demarcated and irresponsible parliament.

The second report was by Gennadiy Burbulis. It was devoted to working out a stance for this new unified bloc to address voters in this pre-election campaign.

Discussions are already under way. Writer Vladimir Voynovich, Vladimir Yuzhakov, a representative of Saratov democrats, and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, have already spoken. Mark Zakharov, our famous film director, has now taken the floor.

Sergey Filatov, head of the presidential administration, has read out greetings from the president. The president is not taking part in this congress. I spoke to his press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov, who said that the president is working today in his country residence.

This is the information from the congress so far. All the rest of the details will come during the daytime Panorama program.

[Unidentified Panorama announcer] Esteemed radio listeners, our commentator Aleksandr Ruvinskiy is following and reporting on the work of the constituent congress of Russia's Choice.

Filatov Relates Greetings From Yeltsin

LD1610114893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1010 GMT 16 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Oct—Precisely today there are opportunities for building and developing a democratic state, Sergey Filatov, the Russian Federation president's chief of staff, has declared. Elections to a bicameral parliament and to organs of representative and municipal power in the localities, presidential elections and the adoption of a constitution should lead to the creation of a new system of Russian statehood, he stressed, greeting the constituent congress of the "Russia's Choice" bloc, which has opened here, on behalf of Boris Yeltsin.

In Sergey Filatov's opinion, the "Russia's Choice" bloc will form the basis for the consolidation of all democratic forces and for the formation of a coalition of them, with the backing of which the president will carry through the reforms that have been started. The emergence of a broad sociopolitical association based on the reform program is a legal and politically gauged response to the attack by the anti-reformist forces which led to the tragic events, the president's chief of staff emphasized. The creation of a coalition of the democratic forces in Russian society will, in his view, enable separatism to be averted.

Kostikov Explains Yeltsin's Absence

LD1610160993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1315 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Excerpts] As we have aleady reported, the constituent congress of the Russia's Choice sociopolitical movement is being held in Moscow. Our correspondent has just returned from there and I hand over the microphone to him.

[Ruvinskiy] [passage omitted] Of course, everyone wanted to know why the president was not taking part in the work of the constituent congress today. There was a

lot of talk that he might take part. Various announcements to that effect were made. But here is what his press secretary, who took part in this congress, had to say about it.

[Begin Kostikov recording] Politically and intellectually his heart is with Russia's Choice. We can all see what sort of people are working here. This is the party that has always supported the president, his policies, and his economics. All of these people are here. Of course, the president is in spirit with Russia's Choice. But at the same time, because he is the president of the whole of Russia he is to a certain extent distancing himself, and I think that this distancing is the president's conscious choice. He wants to be president of the whole of Russia. Because Russia is not just Russia's Choice; it is masses of other blocs, too. He wants to be the representative of all the people of Russia. [end recording]

[Ruvinskiy] Vyacheslav Kostikov was asked about Sergey Shakhray in connection with the fact that the latter announced the creation of his own party. Is this not a sign of a split in the democratic movement? Here is what Kostikov replied:

[Begin Kostikov recording] I do not think that this is a split. I think that the creation of this party is to a certain extent an expression of Shakhray's temperament. He is a very spirited politician with his own view of regional problems. I think that he feels somewhat constrained within other political blocs and he wants to be the leader of his own party. But it is undoubtedly a party of democratic choice, a party of economic liberalism.

But I have already said that democracy can never be some sort of harsh political or organizational structure, because it would then cease to be democracy. Democracy should always consist of many different parties and groupings. And that is all well and good. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Gaydar Remarks on Market Reforms

LD1610112493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1039 GMT 16 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrovna and Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Oct—The way to stability in Russia lies only through the implementation of consistent, calm market reforms, First Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar stated. We cannot promise easy ways to solve the problems, but we can promise a little that is feasible: stability of power and stable legislation that defends private property, he said speaking at the congress of the "Russia's Choice" public-political bloc which opened today.

After the tragic events of 3-4 October a fundamentally new political reality became established in the country, Yegor Gaydar emphasized. All responsibility for the political and economic situation lies on the shoulders of the president and government. This removes a range of obstacles in the way of reforms, but at the same time puts forward a range of organizational and political problems. The iresponsible decisions and promises made by the Supreme Soviet are still giving rise to a chain of difficulties for the Russian Government.

There is a natural impulse for the president and government to follow a soft pre-election policy and give additional promises, he said. Unfortunately, the possibilities and reserves for a populist policy of this sort are entirely exhausted, and "on the eve of elections we are forced to take on ourselves responsibility for hard decisions so as not to allow the economy to collapse." This is being done strictly in the interests of the matter at hand and of the economy, Yegor Gaydar said. In particular, measures will soon be taken to restrain the burden of subsidies and preferential loans, and import subsidies will be cut sharply on 1 November. In his words, many other decisions will be taken which are dictated not by pre-election logic but by concern over the fate of the country. This may play into the hands of political opponents, who will use empty promises and populist proposals. "But we have no other choice," he said.

The main task of the new parliament will be not so much the economic reform itself but, first of all, the reform of the whole system of the Russian statehood, "the freeing of the state system from everything it should not be doing in the conditions of the market," Gaydar believes. In his opinion, the "Russia's Unity" bloc should be promoting such aims. There will be attempts to form the parliament from a multitude of separate groups. I am sure that many blocs which will come to these elections are potentially close to us. Stability of Russia can be achieved more easily if there is a stable democratic majority in the new parliament, he said.

Shumeyko, Kozyrev Address Congress

LD1610142093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1326 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow, 16 October—One of the main aims of the Russia's Choice bloc is to gain a victory at the coming elections, Vladimir Shumeyko has stated. The Russian first deputy prime minister was speaking at the founding congress of this sociopolitical bloc, which opened in Moscow today. About 1,000 delegates from 84 krays, oblasts and republics of the Russian Federation are taking part in the work of the congress.

Vladimir Shumeyko emphasized that a ruling party must come into being on the basis of the bloc. He does not rule out the possibility that he will stand as a candidate in the coming elections to the new parliament.

In the opinion of Andrey Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, who also addressed the congress, the Russia's Choice bloc must become a "party worthy of a great power." It must be a bloc with a certain amount of party discipline, whose representatives will conduct themselves in a seemly way in the new parliament, he stressed.

One would like to avoid the danger of the emergence of a ruling party even prior to its victory in the elections, Andrey Kozyrev said. He noted that the new parliament must maintain sufficient independence in relation to the president and the government and be able to oppose them professionally and to monitor their activities.

Those taking part in the congress include members of the Russian Government and about 50 heads of administration. The congress is continuing its work.

Filatov Discusses Presidential Election

LD1610150593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1341 GMT 16 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Oct—Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian president's administration believes that the Federal Assembly should determine the time of the presidential elections. In an interview given today in the corridors of the constituent congress of the sociopolitical bloc "Russia's Choice," he said that the elections in June had been fixed as a compromise under pressure from certain forces. But these forces, Filatov said, had gone away it seems, not satisfied with this compromise.

Filatov stated that neither now nor in the near future does he see an alternative to Boris Yeltsin's candidacy to the post of president.

The head of the president's administration rejected claims that the power structures had not immediately come to the president's aid in the course of the 3-4 October events in Moscow. In Filatov's view, such an impression had arisen because the defense minister had decided to wait until the night was over in order to avoid innocent victims. "Moreover, until the last minute we had hoped for a peaceful capitulation from the defenders of the 'White House', " he stressed. "The pauses that occurred that night were 'wise pauses' on the part of the defense minister," the head of the president's administration stated.

Gaydar Comments on Coalition Possibilities

LD1610154693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1508 GMT 16 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova and Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow October 16 TASS—The Choice of Russia coalition hopes for cooperation with other democratic blocs, although their formation has not been completed, Russian First Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar told a news conference at a break of the constituent congress of the Choice of Russia public-political coalition here today.

Asked about the coalition's financing, Gaydar noted "not a kopeck from the state budget was taken for the Choice of Russia." There are organizations and business structures that are ready to invest in politics, some of them financed the constituent congress.

Speaking of the draft new constitution to be put on the upcoming referendum, head of the presidential staff Sergey Filatov said the referendum should offer the draft variant approved by the Constitutional Conference. "It will help us to avoid the compromises we had to reach some time before," noted Filatov. The new draft should also carry the analysis of recent developments and the 400 remarks done by federation subjects.

A working group will improve the draft within a week and then a meeting of the Constitutional Conference chambers will be held, said Filatov.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev suggested to postpone criticism of the president and parliament. He said the new parliament should give "the president a possibility to work through the end of his term of office." The foreign minister recalled the president was popularly elected in 1991 and his mandate was confirmed at the April 1993 referendum.

'Sharp Dispute' Noted at Congress

LD1610165493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1544 GMT 16 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 16 Oct—The official agenda for the first day of the inaugural congress of the Russia's Choice bloc went smoothly according to plan, and dozens of speakers took their turn at the rostrum. However, a sharp dispute raged backstage, with the leadership of the Democratic Russia movement as the main protagonists.

Democratic Russia and a number of pro-democracy organizations allied to it are among the creators of the Russia's Choice bloc, and Democratic Russia leaders have places on the Executive Committee. However, some of the bloc's other founders want to turn it into a political movement and bar radical left-wingers in Democratic Russia from taking part. They think that if Democratic Russia and Russia's Choice were to put up separate candidates, the democrats might score a larger overall vote. The most active supporters of this viewpoint at the congress were Sergey Yushenkov and Arkadiy Murashev, who were accused by Democratic Russia leaders of trying to split the bloc.

The Russia's Choice public and political movement recently organized itself in 54 regions without Democratic Russia, even though these regions already had organizing committees with Democratic Russia members. As a result, 19 regions, including Moscow, had two delegations each at the congress. Some of the Democratic Russia representatives were allowed into the Congress only with guest status, and some were kept out altogether.

While the official part of the congress was going ahead, a fence-mending commission with Sergey Kovalev, Yegor

Gaydar, and Anatoliy Chubays was at work all day. A compromise solution was achieved between most of the regions with dual delegations, but not between the Moscow delegations.

Democratic Russia leaders today held an impromptu news conference, at which Sergey Yushenkov and Arkadiy Murashev were accused of trying to split the Russia's Choice bloc before the congress delegates had even voted to set it up.

According to the Democratic Russia leaders, who should reach a final decision today on the Russia's Choice Executive Committee, their opponents are tying to turn the bloc into an organization managed from above, into "a transmission system between government and parliament." There are and have never been any ideological differences between Democratic Russia and Russia's Choice, they said.

Tomorrow is not likely to be an easy day at the congress, as contentious issues will be debated and voted on. This new organization is clearly undergoing a difficult birth.

Chubays Considers Split 'Impossible'

LD1610183093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1721 GMT 16 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Alexandrova, Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow October 16 TASS—Russian Vice-Premier Anatoliy Chubays pins the hope for a new professional and competent parliament on the new election system.

Election coalitions should have the right to recall and replace their deputies, Chubays told a news conference at a break of the constituent congress of the Choice of Russia coalition.

The official described the coalition formation as a result of a multi-faceted process that is supported by Russian regions.

Speaking of a conflict with the Democratic Russia heads at the congress lobby, Chubays, who is a member of the congress conciliatory commission, said "a split is impossible". In his words, it is a conflict between the Democratic Russia political leadership and the movement itself, whose representatives have joined the Choice of Russia coalition.

'Conflict' Evident

LD1710112693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1051 GMT 17 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow October 17 TASS—Vladimir Bokser, member of the coodinating council of the Democratic Russia movement, speaking at the founding congress of the Choice of Russia socio-political bloc on Sunday [17 October], called on those present to give up all "settling of score" inside political movements the bloc is made of until after December 12 (a parliamentary election date). "However much we quarrel, we all still are like-minded people," he said.

On Saturday night the bloc, judging by everything, managed to overcome the conflict brought on by a special position of the leadership of the Democratic Russia movement. Most members of the Choice of Russia executive committee expressed an opinion that the position of the Democratic Russia movement leaders was not of principled nature but was brought about by their heightened political ambitions.

The bloc finally identified itself organisationally on Saturday. Sergey Kovalev was elected the chairman of the council of the Choice of Russia movement. The organising committee worked out a principle for the formation of a federal list of candidates to run for the State Duma (council), and discussed the list from the numerical point of view and examined candidacies which are to be submitted to the bloc's congress for consideration.

A draft defederal list of candidates from the Choice of Russia includes 18 persons: Gennadiy Burbulis, Dmitriy Volkogonov, Boris Zolotukhin, Sergey Kovalev, Aleksey Yemelyanov, Andrey Makarov, Mikhail Poitoranin, Lev Ponomarev, Sergey Filatov, Petr Filippov, Yuriy Chernichenko, Gleb Yakunin, Andrey Kozyrev, Boris Saltykov, Boris Fedorov, Anatoliy Chubays, Vladimir Bashmachnikov, and Pavel Bunich.

The congress continues its work.

Status of Bloc Clarified

LD1710144993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1219 GMT 17 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrovna]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Oct—The participants in the news conference during the interval of the constituent congress of the "Russia's Choice" bloc have brought some clarity regarding the use of the terms "bloc" and "movement" at the congress. Up until now, there has been constant terminological confusion at the congress. According to Gennadiy Burbulis, the head of the "Strategy" political center, it is too early to talk about the formation of a party: "It is probably best to constitute a party in accordance with the results of the elections."

Sergey Yushenkov, as the deputy head of the Federal Information Center said, the "Democratic Russia" movement is part of the electoral bloc (or association) "Russia's Choice." Also in the bloc is its namesake, the "Russia's Choice" movement, recently formed in 54 components of the federation. Before the congress, he reported, the all-Russian movement "Russia's Choice" was formed, and Sergey Kovalev elected the chairman of

its council. In the next few days it will be registered at the Justice Ministry. "People who do not belong to the 'Russia's Choice' movement may join the 'Russia's Choice' bloc. Other organizations can also join," Sergey Yushenkov explained.

Mikhail Poltoranin, the elected chairman of the Moscow organization of the "Russia's Choice" movement said, "some people from 'Democratic Russia' wanted to form the 'Russia's Choice' bloc under the 'Democratic Russia' banner." But branches of the "Russia's Choice" movement have started to be formed in the regions. He called the existence of a "Russia's Choice" bloc containing both the "Russia's Choice" and "Democratic Russia" movements a "normal situation."

As leader of the Federal Information Center, Mikhail Poltoranin also said that "the state's funding for the mass media will not be used to promote the 'Russia's Choice' bloc. This would damage the bloc itself," he thinks. The executive power will now "tackle the mass news media in earnest." A draft presidential decree has been prepared that will strengthen the Federal Information Center in the near future. The Press and Information Ministry will only be left with the responsibility for providing the legal backup for the work of the press.

A draft election manifesto, the main slogan of which is "liberty, property and legality," was approved at the morning sitting of the congress. Congress participants also voted to officially institute the "Russia's Choice" election bloc.

Cadidates Listed

LD1710162293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1540 GMT 17 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Oct—Delegates to the founding congress of the sociopolitical bloc "Russia's Choice" have determined candidates for the State Duma from this bloc by a rating vote. The federal list of 14 people was headed by First Deputy Prime Ministers Yegor Gaydar and Vladimir Shumeyko, and Ella Pamfilova, the minister of social welfare of the population.

The list also includes Sergey Kovalev, Anatoliy Chubays, Andrey Kozyrev, Boris Fedorov, Dmitriy Volkogonov, Sergey Filatov, Yuriy Chernichenko, Aleksey Yemelyanov, Petr Filippov, Mikhail Poltoranin, and Pavel Bunich (order of names according to number of votes received).

Apart from these 14 candidates the list will include five people whose names will be determined by Yegor Gaydar himself. These are political and public figures who will take an active part in organizing the election campaign.

Of the 18 candidates presented in the draft federal list, the following were not elected: Gennadiy Burbulis, Boris Zolotukhin, Andrey Makarov, Lev Ponomarev, Gleb Yakunin, Boris Saltykov, and Vladimir Bashmachnikov. However, all those who failed to get through to the federal list can still be nominated for the bloc's electoral lists from the regions.

Burbulis Speaks at News Conference

LD1710195693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1630 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] INTERFAX reports that Gennadiy Burbulis, the former Russian state secretary, has declared that there is a social need to create a well-run political organization operating on a professional basis.

Speaking at a news conference today during the congress of the electoral bloc, Russia's Choice, which was going on in Moscow, Burbulis observed that it would be not just mistaken, but criminal, in our position if we ignored this need and failed to anticipate it organizationally. This is precisely why the Russia's Choice movement is being set up, Burbulis said.

Speaking about the possibility of establishing a party on the basis of the movement, Burbulis said that the time and place for doing so depended on the combination of the tactics and strategy of political reforms in Russia. In his opinion, it would be appropriate to found a party after the elections.

The Russia's Choice bloc has no intention of either ingratiating itself with the regions or making advances to them, Gennadiy Burbulis said. In his opinion, freedom must apply to both the individual and the Russian territories equally, but not at the expense of Russian statehood.

Answering a question from INTERFAX on the differences between the economic programs of the Russia's Choice bloc and the coalition led by Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, Burbulis said: Yavlinskiy believes that the collapse of the socialist, monopolistic-cum-departmental economy could have been stopped, but we are sure that this collapse was irreversible. In addition, we are convinced that the existence of miracle methods of conducting radical reforms in the economy without fairly difficult tests for the majority of the population—something to which Yavlinskiy refers—is either an academic utopia or a social and political myth. In every other respect, our positions could be brought together, Burbulis stressed.

Cochairman Claims 'Democratic Russia' Has No Special 'Privileges'

PM1810093993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Oct 93 First Edition p 8

[Article by Lev Ponomarev, cochairman of the "Democratic Russia" movement: "Communists' Claims to Participate In Elections Immoral"]

[Text] The sad list of casualties in the communist-fascist uprising has not yet been closed, not all of its organizers

have yet been arrested, and the specter of civil war still stalks Russia, yet leaders of the parties sowing hatred, malice, and violence are already eager for the elections. They are demanding the right to take part in them. They are angry about the "flouting" of their rights. They want once again to present society with their programs, whose bloody implementation we witnessed on the night of 3-4 October.

The criminals call themselves the opposition and want to take part on an equal footing in elections from which, as they put it, they have been barred. Let us be clear about this—the parties, organizations, and movements which took part in organizing and implementing the coup attempt are today not outside the electoral process but outside the law. They determined that position for themselves by their actions, they have nobody to blame but themselves.

At the same time as complaining about the "infringement" of their electoral rights, the hardline opposition leaders are spreading conjecture about the privileged position in which democratic parties and, above all, the "Russia's Choice" bloc, find themselves. But the fact that the list of candidates from this bloc is led by Ye. Gaydar, S. Filatov, S. Yushenkov, and other statesmen is not in itself proof of any advantage or privileges which, some may believe, the "party in power" may enjoy during the election. So far any discussion on this subject has been absolutely unfocused. Just cite one fact that shows irrefutably that democratic parties are being given privileges at the elections—be they political, financial, organizational, or otherwise.

The apparatus of "Democratic Russia," of which I am cochairman, comprises 15 people and takes up four rooms (compare this to the facilities available to Arkadiy Volskiy or Konstantin Borovoy, whose political organizations are far better equipped than ours in every respect). Our leaders appear no more frequently on TV than any others, we do not force the press to publish our documents, nor do we demand that state publishing houses print our leaflets...

In short, we have never made and are not making any claim to any exclusive right to state our position to the detriment of our political rivals. On the contrary, we feel that such a claim would be entirely unfounded and should not be met—irrespective of who makes it. All the more so if it comes from the Communists, who now have neither the legal, political, or moral right to public attention.

Shakray-Led 'Russian Unity and Accord Party' Holds Congress

Entrepreneurs Association Joins

LD1610192393 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1700 GMT 16 Oct 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Association of Entrepreneurs for a New Russia will take part in the elections in a bloc with the Party of Russian Unity and Accord. A report by the association's press service stresses that just because the association has joined a bloc with Sergey Shakhray, it does not mean a renunciation of the economic platform developed in cooperation with Grigoriy Yavlinskiy's Center. The association will fight for it in the bloc with Shakhray. Among the new bloc's leaders are Konstantin Zatulin, Yegor Yakovlev, and Ramazan Abdulatipov.

Coalitions Considered

LD1610214993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] A congress of the Russian Unity and Accord Party opened in Novgorod today. The new party's slogan for the election campaign is: Unity Through Accord. Those who spoke at the congress on Saturday afternoon did not rule out the possibility of an alliance with the Russia's Choice bloc. Coalition with the Republican Party of Russia is also possible, but only after consultations with the leaders.

Asked by an ITAR-TASS correspondent to comment on the results of the first day of the congress, Yuriy Artyukh, spokesman for the party's organizing committee, described them as successful. He noted that nearly all delegates at the congress he had spoken to believe that Sergey Shakhray has realistic chances of becoming a candidate for the post of president.

Today [17 October] the party will discuss its rules and program. Sergey Shakhray, one of the initiators of the creation of the Russian Unity and Accord Party, is expected to make a speech.

Party Formally 'Established' 17 Oct

LD1710125793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1042 GMT 17 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Troyanovskiy]

[Text] Novgorod, 17 Oct—The Party of Russian Unity and Accord [Partiya Rossiyskogo Yedintsva i Soglasiya] was established in Novgorod today. The decision was adopted by representatives from 50 regions attending the party's founding congress.

Delivering a report on the party's program and political platform, Sergey Shakhray, chairman of its organizing committee, said a distinctive and fundamental feature of the new party is that state unifying ideas have been made the foundation of its activities.

Shakhray Said: "By creating the Party of Unity and Accord, we are turning to simple traditional values such as the family and its well-being, work, property, the home, and the motherland. We wish to build a political organization on good conservative principles, which is why a second possible name for our party is the All-Russian Conservative Party."

Concerning the new party's attitude to the existing authorities—the president and government of the Russian Federation, Sergey Shakhray said: "I would not like our party to turn into a party of petty critics, basing their political platform on canceling and rejecting everything that has existed. It must not be a party of opposition. We must not engage in petty criticism, but must specify and analyze mistakes and put forward calm proposals to overcome the mistakes in practice. We will not be a tame party but a party of practical and constructive cooperation... [ellipses as received] The Russian prime minister [Chernomyrdin] and First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets have agreed to cooperate with us during the election campaign and in the future, and you can see Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin among the delegates of our founding congress."

Asked why the party has not joined the Russia's Choice bloc, Shakhray gave three reasons. "We want to be an organization that is stable and predictable and protected from squabbles and splits. We want those voting for our organization to have confidence in it. That is the first point. Second, we want to move on from radical and shock-therapy methods to constructive creative work. Third, if we want to be a party representing the interests of the regions, we must realize that a reshuffling of the same political names will not benefit the electorate. We are striving to see that fresh faces appear on the political scene."

The congress has begun discussing the party's rules and program.

Shakhray Interviewed

LD1710194293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1545 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray, in Novgorod on 17 October by correspondent Vladimir Batalov; from the "Novosti" newscast—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Announcer Sergey Shatunov] The constituent congress of Russia's Unity and Accord Party ended in Novgorod today. [passage omitted]

[Shakhray] Whatever happens, we will preserve the individual face of the party, because we want to be responsible for our program and our deputies, if the electorate votes for them. As experience shows, broad blocs and movements also tend to split up, even over dividing up places. If we want to be the Russian Unity and Accord Party, then we must have at least some surnames that have been around for a few years.

[Correspondent Vladimir Batalov] The party will not be in opposition to the president and government, but neither will it be a party in someone's pocket. The new political organization is ready to cooperate with those constructive forces that recognize their huge responsibility for the destiny of Russia.

Stankevich on Party's Future

LD1810102793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0545 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Troyanovskiy]

[Text] Novgorod October 18 ITAR-TASS—The creation of a new party—the Party of Russian Unity and Accord (PRUA)—meets the actual needs of Russian society, according to the Russian president's political adviser Sergey Stankevich.

Commenting on the outcome of the party's constituent congress in Novgorod on Sunday [17 October], Sergey Stankevich, who was elected a member of the party's Federal Council, said, "I am convinced that a very useful political association has been emerged. It is seeking not to lobby and not to push but to integrate the interests of separate regions as Russia's state interests. Such an association is very much in need now."

Sergey Stankevich does not think that the new party—informally dubbed as "the Shakhray party" by journalists, referring to the initiator of its creation Sergey Shakhray—will act as an antagonist of another election bloc which took shape at the weekend, "Russia's Choice". Stankevich said the new party will maintain partnership relations with the bloc. "We complement each other but do not oppose each other," Stankevich stressed.

As concerns relations with the executive, Stankevich said: "We will try and formulate constructive alternatives of the main state level decisions in order to expand the field of possible options for the president. The sources of such initiatives for us lie not in some abstract closet schemes but in the actual interests of the regions, territories and areas of Russia".

Asked whether he thinks that the party leader, Sergey Shakhray, should run for presidency, Sergey Stankevich replied with a smile, "I think we should come back to this idea in eight to ten years".

Shakhray, Stankevich Comment

LD1810103393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0837 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Deputy Premier Sergey Shakhray who leads the organizing committee of the Party of Russian Unity and Concord [Accord] (PRUC) has said that PRUC is not a party of opposition and politicking. The goals of his party were approved by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and by "the key representatives of entrepreneurs and the corps of directors", Shakhray told INTERFAX on Sunday [17 October].

The deputy premier views the founding of the PRUC as an attempt to pass from "dismantling the old system to establishing normal legal relations in society". "We want to create a mechanism under which the opinion of regional leaders will be brought to the knowledge of the federal authorities," he said.

For his part the presidential political adviser, Sergey Stankevich, told INTERFAX that he intends to be a candidate for elections to the National Duma from the PRUC. According to him, First Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets intends to do the same. As Stankevich said, "Viktor Chernomyrdin has also displayed interest in the Party of Russian Unity and Concord and willingness to discuss steps to be taken by the government with it".

At the same time the presidential adviser pointed out that "the PRUC will make no attempts to become the ruling party in the current or next year". "In ten years or so" this will be a leading party, he said.

According to Stankevich, the party's political council intends to carry out consultations with "major democratic blocs and groups" on the possibility of signing agreements concerning coordinated actions during the election campaign. "Preliminary consultations have already been conducted with the leaders of Russian Choice and Yavlinskiy's group," he said.

In an interview with INTERFAX the deputy chairman of the Federation Committee, Ramazan Abdulatipov, said he doubts that the PRUC will become a party supported by the people and government. According to him, elections to the new parliament can be based on concrete political figures, not on parties' programs. According to Abdulatipov, "these politicians will subsequently form political parties and movements".

Party Adopts Rules, Elects Officials

LD1810101493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0837 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] The constituent conference of the Party of Russian Unity and Concorde [Accord] that took place in Novgorod Sunday [17 October] has adopted the rules and the political platform and elected the party's ruling body, the Federal Council, which includes vice-premiers Sergey Shakhray and Aleksandr Shokhin, the head of the state legal department Aleksandr Kotenkov, the president's political adviser Sergey Stankevich, the chairman of the House of Nationalities of the former Parliament Ramazan Abdulatipov.

INTERFAX reports from Novgorod, the Federal Council is to make a list of the party's candidates to the future parliament which is to be elected December 12.

The conference also decided to hold a party congress early in 1994 where delegates are to adopt the party's political programme.

Democratic Party Opens Fifth Congress

LD1510133593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1222 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow October 15 TASS—The fifth congress of the Democratic Party of Russia opened here today in the House of Unions. The agenda of the congress includes the discussion of the situation in the country and the party's electoral platform, as well as the adoption of the all-federal list of candidates to the State Duma from the Democratic Party of Russia.

The opening session was attended by 165 out of 240 elected representatives. According to the party's regulations, one delegate represents 400 party members.

Nikolay Travkin made a report about the situation in the country and the electoral platform of the party. He said that "the Democratic Party of Russia is working for the creation of strong democratic power in Russia, of a market-oriented economy and civic society which would guarantee security, the observance of human rights and freedoms, law and order." According to the party's leader, the main difference between the party and the Russia's Choice bloc lies in different approaches to the reforming of the power system. "The Democratic Party of Russia welcomes the reforming of power only by means of evolution, and not through a revolution. Aware of its responsibility for the future of Russia, the Democratic Party believes that the formation of blocs with other associations brings down the level of responsibility of the party itself," Travkin stressed.

In the economic sphere the party is "giving priority to the development of the agricultural sector through a reasonable financial support from the state, credit incentives and a fair exchange between the agricultural sector and industry."

Travkin urged the delegates to adopt a 200-member list of candidates to the State Duma. According to Travkin, there are leaders of the federal level and some 50 business people on the list.

Endorses Election Platform

LD1510162593 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] The Democratic Party of Russia [DPR], said its leader Nikolay Travkin at its congress in Moscow on Friday [15 October], "is beginning its election campaign single-handedly. Let those who fear responsibility and who want to become scattered amid other parties and movements join blocs."

His party, Travkin pointed out, shares in principle the fundamental goals of the present authorities, in particular their orientation to a free-market economy. However, it rejects those methods which desecrate such ideas. According to him, the DPR stands "for peaceful means of development; for evolution, not revolution." Travkin described DPR members as "healthy pragmatists," for whom the main criterion is "people's quality of life, not the degree of democratization," since "there is no democracy on an empty stomach."

At its congress the DPR endorsed its election platform and its list of candidates for the State Duma. Those who head the list are Nikolay Travkin, film director Stanislav

Govorukhin, and former Cabinet Ministers Nikolay Fedorov and Aleksandr Titkin.

Republican Party Holds Fourth Congress

LD1510122993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1054 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Vdovin]

[Text] Moscow October 15 TASS—"The Republican Party of the Russian Federation (RPRF) is a party which gives priority to man's spiritual, political and economic liberty," says the draft election platform of the RPRF, whose 4th congress opened here today.

The forum was addressed by Yegor Gaydar, first vice-premier of the Russian Government and one of the leaders of the "Russia's Option" bloc. He said that "the change in the political situation, which occurred early this October, has triggered centrifugal tendencies within the camp of the democrats". Gaydar noted also that after the upcoming elections "there will be no single dominating bloc within the new parliament—this is a guarantee". In his opinion, "care must be taken about its essence". The first vice-premier also said that "after the composition of the new parliament is endorsed, it will be necessary to put the accent on the stabilisation of the market economy and on the promotion of democracy in Russia". Gaydar also expressed the hope that the "RPRF will continue to interact closely with the 'Russia's Opinion' bloc".

Addressing the congress, party Co-chairman Vladimir Lysenko noted that the "RPRF has called from the very outset for the formation of a right-wing centrist and politically liberal bloc, and has always backed the policy of the government, its course of economic reforms". According to Lysenko, the party "has actively joined the election campaign, coming out as an ally of the 'Russia's Opinion' bloc". In his opinion, "it is necessary to jointly set up several democratic blocs in the future parliament, which could pool their efforts to elaborate tactics to pull the country out of the crisis".

The congress will hear a report "on the political situation and the party's election strategy". It will endorse a list of candidates to the new Russian parliament and the RPRF election documents.

Gaydar Speaks

LD1510211693 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1310 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] The fourth congress of the Republican Party is continuing its work in Moscow. Kirill Shakhnovich reports:

[Shakhnovich] I remind you that there are approximately 5,000 Republicans in the country, and their leaders are Vladimir Lysenko and Vyacheslav Shostakovskiy, former reformers of the CPSU. The party has always supported a reform-orientated line. The differences only consisted in the political methods. This moderate approach, compared with other political movements, has now made the Republicans face a choice. Which bloc should they join? Russia's Choice, which favours the president and [Yegor] Gaydar, or the network of movements surrounding the Yavlinskiy bloc? Gaydar arrived at the congress to help resolve this task. Yavlinskiy was expected.

However, the first speech, the speech by Lysenko, did not leave any opportunity of entering the bloc with Russia's Choice. The argument was that another democratic alternative is needed to the presidential party. It is comforting that the Republicans understand what the alternative with Yavlinskiy means. Even if they decide today to form a bloc with him, then it is only for the short period of the elections. If the republics reject both Gaydar and Yavlinskiy, then, as Lysenko acknowledged, with the absence of prominent political figures in the Republican Party, they will have to engage a leader from outside.

Shostakovskiy's speech was considerably more scathing with regard to Russia's Choice. Gaydar had to listen to a great many impartial criticisms. Thus, the leaders are opposed to a bloc with Russia's Choice and not very much in favor of Yavlinskiy, quote, because of his political arrogance, unquote. But most of the regional Republican organizations have already formed the basis of Russia's Choice. Consequently, at the elections the Republicans will have to act two roles.

In his speech, Yegor Gaydar said in particular:

[Begin Gaydar recording] At this time the government is in a very difficult situation. Naturally, on the one hand its hands have been untied for a while. At least for a time, the range of elements has disappeared which prevented many well thought-out decisions from being made. At the same time, at present the government is objectively a temporary one and is working until January '93, that is, '94. At the same time the government finds itself in a preelection situation, that is, a time of preparations for elections. An election campaign is not the most pleasant and the best time for pursuing a responsible monetary and financial policy, and at the same time it has an economy in which the reserve of popular solutions has been totally exhausted. Everything that could be promised irresponsibly has already been promised to everyone.

This means that we have the following unpleasant choice: Either to subject our work to political aims at the present time or to behave in the way the opposition would have behaved: Let us give them this; let us give them that; we won't do this; we'll leave this for a while; we won't touch the prices or reduce import subsidies; we won't stop concessionary credits; let us postpone all this until after the elections. But, in my opinion, such a policy would be irresponsible in purely economic terms and I would simply refuse to be involved in it. The

government itself understands on the whole that this cannot be done today—the time gap between the point when we make a wrong decision and the point when we have to pay for it has dwindled from half a year to several weeks. Therefore, the government would not be able to cash in on that, even if it wanted to.

This means that it now has to be responsible for working normally and making decisions which will not necessarily be the most pleasant ones or the most beneficial for its election campaign. And of course, we understand only too well all the advantages it gives to the political structures of the, so to speak, soft opposition [which says]: On the whole we support their policy, but you can't help but see that they are making a mess of things; they should be less radical, try to be more popular and kinder to the people.

Such a position is quite understandable and can bring some political results in the short term. But to me it does not seem very responsible if we consider it not just from the angle of the current election campaign but from the point of view of the more long-term tasks of stabilizing the market economy and democracy in Russia. [end recording]

Agrarian Party Holds Congress, Discusses Elections

LD1610130793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] The Agrarian Party of Russia will take part in the forthcoming elections on 12 December as an independent electoral association, Mikhail Lapshin, party chairman and former people's deputy of the Russian Federation said at the party's second extraordinary congress, which has opened in Moscow. A total of 91 delegates from more than 40 Russian regions are taking part. The congress will adopt the Agrarian Party's election platform and approve its candidates for deputies to the Federation Council and State Duma. As has become known to the Russian Information Agency [RIA], among them are Vice Prime Minister Aleksandr Zaveryukha; party leader Mikhail Lapshin; and Aleksandr Davydov, chairman of the central committee of the trade union of workers of the agrarian-industrial complex.

Lists Candidates

LD1610170793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Russian Deputy Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha, who is in charge of agriculture, former chairman of the Constitutional Court Valeriy Zorkin, and First Deputy Agriculture Minister Vladimir Shcherbak have all been included on the list of candidates to represent the Agrarian Party of Russia [APR] in the Federal Assembly. This decision was made today by the delegates at the second congress of the APR.

The debates over the list were heated, especially when Zaveryukha's nomination was discussed. The votes were finally swayed when the party board argued that in the pre-election jostle every political party or bloc was openly trying to attract eminent people from executive authorities to its side.

During the discussion of nominations, an attempt was made to include Aleksandr Rutskoy on the list. The proposal, however, was ignored.

'Renewal' Union To Form Bloc With Volskiy's Union

MK1510152093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 1

[Anna Ostapchuk report under the "In Brief" rubric: "'Renewal' Prepares For Elections"]

[Text] The "Renewal" All-Russian Union has held its third conference, which decided that the organization will set up a bloc called Civic Union together with the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. The conference approved the list of candidates to the State Duma and authorized its presidium to carry out further transformation of the bloc.

'Professionals' Seen as Better Candidates

PM1810092593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 1

[Commentary by Petr Filippov, vice president of the Association of Privatized and Private Enterprises: "We Will Not Withstand a Second Ignorant Parliament"]

[Text] Russia's citizens have frequently displayed an understanding of where the Federation is going, who can be trusted, and who is simply abusing his fellow citizens' trust. I hope that will also be the case 12 December.

In any country the parliament is a kind of "law factory." The quality of these laws depends on the qualifications of its workers. Our country will not withstand a second populist economically ignorant parliament. Yet at present, when real political parties with a developed structure and their own electorate are essentially absent there is a great danger that people who are answerable to no one will be elected to the Federal Assembly. That is, formally they are answerable to the voters. Let us recall whether even one attempt to recall a people's deputy of the former Supreme Soviet was successful?

The 12 December elections are the first in which the voters will have to think about the program of a particular contender and not only about his personality. At present, unfortunately, one forms the impression that in all parties the dominant position is occupied by functionaries, not professionals. I am sure that in addition to a high degree of morality and loyalty to reforms a candidate must be a professional in the field of macroeconomics or law. Otherwise there will be a new slide toward populism. There is hope in the fact that in the regions, representatives of joint-stock companies, banks,

and investment funds are putting forward their own candidates and investing funds. And that is serious—businessmen will not spend money for nothing. But the fears which exist in society that "moneybags" will come to power are exaggerated. The representatives of property owners, each with "his own interests," will all together be able to defend sensible laws. Businessmen must take the most active part in the elections, discarding the idea of power as something bestowed from above. We must form power ourselves and therefore not leave professionals to one side but promote them and give them material support.

Election Activities of Trade Unions Detailed

MK1610125393 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 66, 16 Oct 93 (signed to press 16 Oct) p 2

[Andrey Nikolayev report: "Free Trade Unions Ready To Form Blocs With Parties and Movements. FITUR Abstains From Election Campaign"]

[Text] Analysis of the situation amid preparations for the elections to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly shows that many all-Russian trade unions, together with other parties and public-political movements, are ready to actively push their candidates through to the new legislature.

At present, according to Vladimir Prokhorov, deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Trade Union of Mining and Metallurgy Industry Workers, all-Russian trade unions face a difficult situation where they can nominate candidates only as part of electoral blocs or blocs of other parties, and, as if this were not enough, only if their charters allow them to take part in elections. Given this, the Trade Union of Mining and Metallurgy Industry Workers is actively conducting talks with leaders of parties and public-political movements, whose election platforms reflect the social and economic interests of the industry's workers, planning to side with them to contest the elections jointly.

At the same time, a number of free trade unions, including the union of metallurgy workers, have set up a joint center called "Trade Unions for Reform and Elections" and are trying to register it as a public-political movement, which will enable them to form their own federal list of candidates to the State Duma. Apart from this, the executive committee of the Confederation of Free Transport Trade Unions of Russia decided after preliminary consultations to create its own public-political movement called "Free Transport Trade Unions of Russia." According to Vladimir Brodulev, vice president of the Federation of Trade Unions of Air Traffic Controllers of Russia, the new movement's leaders are intent on holding preelection meetings with representative of Democratic Russia as soon as the movement is registered in order to nominate candidates who stick firmly to democratic views.

At the same time, the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia [FITUR] has so far abstained from taking part in the election campaign. Mr. Romanov, FITUR acting chairman—he replaced former chairman Igor Klochkov, who resigned the other day—issued a statement saying, in particular, that it is not the trade unions' business to engage in politics. Mr. Romanov emphasized that FITUR sees its main objective in the social and economic protection of the federation's members. The main reason for FITUR's nonparticipation in the election campaign, however, appears to be the fact that quite recently the executive committee of the federation's board issued two political statements opposing President Boris Yeltsin's actions.

Creation of New Election Bloc Predicted

LD1510135693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1201 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] As Interfax has learned from a well-placed source, the creation of a new election bloc may be announced on Friday [15 October]. The alliance is led by Grigory Yavlinskiy, Yuriy Boldyrev (the former control department chief on the presidential team), Vladimir Lukin (the former Russian Federation ambassador to the U.S.), Viktor Sheynis (the leader of the "Accord for the Sake of Progress" faction in the dissolved Supreme Soviet), Fedor Shelov-Kovedyayev (ex first deputy foreign minister), and others.

Consultations and negotiations on the formation of the bloc are now under way between the Republican Party (co-chairmen Vladimir Lysenko, Vyacheslav Shestakovskiy, and others), the Social-Democratic Party (led by Anatoliy Golov), the Christian Democratic Union (Valeriy Borshov, Viktor Uchitel, Igor Potapov), and members of the former Accord for the Sake of Progress faction.

Official on Upcoming Elections

MK1510133093 Moscow OBSHCHAYA GAZETA in Russian No. 13/15, 15-21 Oct 93 (signed to press 14 Oct) p 7

[Interview with Viktor Sheynis, deputy chairman of the Legislative Initiatives Commission under the Russian Federation president, by Andrey Lipskiy, editor of OBSHCHAYA GAZETA's political department, in the "Expert Appraisal" column: "The Executive Branch Cannot be Left Without Parliamentary Oversight"]

[Text] [Lipskiy] How do you appraise the juridical underpinnings of the statute on elections to the State Duma and the Federation Council?

[Sheynis] The statute on elections to the State Duma goes back to the draft law drawn up by the Constitutional Commission's working group. In my view, it responds to the requirements of contemporary election law. True, we provided for a period of 135 days between the calling and the holding of elections. In fact they were announced 80 days in advance. We also did not anticipate that the

election campaign would begin under a state of emergency. Moreover, our original draft was mutilated within Mr. Kotenkov's State Legal Directorate and we had to undertake tremendous efforts, with the support from a number of presidential administration officials, to get through to the president and agree on restoring the reasonable provisions of the original draft.

As for the edict on elections to the Federation Council, it was a complete surprise to me: I learned about it from people who heard it on the radio.

[Lipskiy] Can truly free and democratic elections be held in the present political conditions and within such a limited time frame?

[Sheynis] The 21 September edict was not the sole or the best way out of the situation that developed in August and September. The main thing that makes this edict acceptable to me is the calling of presidential elections. My conviction about the fundamental need for early elections was not weakened, but to the contrary, reinforced, by the tragic events of 3 and 4 October. We do not know how society will react after recovering from the shock. We do not know how the local power bodies will behave. We do not know how the economic situation will develop. There are many other things we do not know.

In the context of the present crisis, elections, even ill-prepared and hastily organized, are still the sole legitimate way out of it. Therefore I am ready to support the idea of elections, although they are held not the way I would like them to be held and not within a time frame that I would consider best. Much about these elections is not to my liking, but even less to my liking is the situation in which the executive branch from president to subprefect and further down is left without the counterbalance of representative bodies. Each week of delay is dangerous for at least two reasons. First, the forces that armed the bandits are far from routed, while the presidential side needs fresh legitimation. Second, within the president's current team there are different forces and they do not always arouse sympathy and respect.

[Lipskiy] Are you sure that the new parliament will not become too obedient to the president—a "lap dog" parliament?

[Sheynis] I do not have that certainty but I consider it my duty to do everything to prevent this from happening. Had you formulated your question differently—whether I am sure that the parliament will be a "lap dog"—I would also have said no. I have nothing to do with those who would like to get a "tame" parliament, consecrating every step the president makes, including an inappropriate one. I think that today there is a chance for a force to be formed in the new parliament which on the one hand, would reject the style and ideology of the National Salvation Front and on the other, would stand in civilized opposition to the authorities but without being ostentatious and without turning parliament into a menagerie.

'Technical Problems' Could Postpone Election

PM1510133193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 14 Oct 93 p 2

[Tamara Zamyatina report: "Struggle of Political Elites Will Develop over Influential Senators' Seats"]

[Text] Predicting the development of events following the Russian Presidential Edict on Elections to the Federation Council, Presidential Council member Emil Pain noted that in the period of the election campaign now under way all political blocs will regroup and "throw their main energies into occupying the 'senators' seats in the upper chamber of parliament." The difficulty for political blocs will be that the Federation Council election will be conducted according to the majority system within one-member districts, that is, the candidates for the upper chanber will fight on an individual basis, albeit with the support of the parties.

I would recall that under the statute on the federal organs of power the lower chamber of the Federal Assembly, the State Duma, only elaborates laws, while the upper chamber, the Federation Council, ratifies them. Thus the main struggle between the political elites will develop specifically over the influential "lords'" or "senators'" seats, as Pain put it.

The Presidential Council member expressed approval in respect of the decision to elect deputies to the Federation Council rather than bringing official representatives of components of the Federation into it, as was planned earlier. Without elections to the Federation Council, he believes, "the State Duma, which would embody a single-chamber parliament, would be a disabled and weakened organ."

The fact that simultaneous elections are being held for the Federation Council and the State Duma will provide grounds for their possible postponement from 12 December to a later date, given the additional technical problems, the political scientist believes.

Divisions Within Democratic Groups Viewed

MK1510145093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 3

[Boris Klin report: "People in President's Administration Are Not Sure of Democrat's Victory"]

[Text] A victory for democrats in the elections for the State Duma, which seemed a sure thing a week ago, does not look so sure today. Russia is rather likely to get as a result a very mixed-bag parliament like the recently elected Polish Sejm. On how loyal the new legislative branch is going to be also depends the Russian president's own future.

"It is already possible to state that democrats are not going to form a single bloc in the elections," Igor Kharichev, deputy head of the president's administration, told your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent.

According to him, several democratic election blocs have now in fact become distinct. The strongest among them is Russia's Choice, based on the Democratic Russia, Democratic Choice, and Human Chain movements. At the top of its ticket will probably be Yegor Gaydar and Sergey Filatov. Differences, however, exist even inside this bloc—true, they are not of an ideological but personal nature. But, as is known, rivalry between leaders can undermine internal unity. According to some information, Lev Ponomarev, one of the chairmen of Democratic Russia, voiced serious discontent during negotiations with the proposed number of representatives of his movement on the federal ticket. Should Democratic Russia suddenly slam the door, the most representative bloc would be left without one of its structures best prepared for the election campaign. On the other hand, should all conditions of Democratic Russia be satisfied, this may cause dissatisfaction of the other members of the bloc.

Division is expected also in some other democratically oriented parties. During the congress of the Republican Party of Russia, Petr Filippov is going to carry off part of the party to join the Russia's Choice bloc. Vyacheslav Shostakovskiy will be leaning on a part of the regional organizations that refuse to coordinate their operation with this bloc. Something on this scale is expected to happen also in the Democratic Party of Russia.

Mr. Kharichev stated with alarm: The disunion of the supporters of reform who generally have no fundamental political differences may result in the average voter's becoming confused by the great number of democratic tickets indistinguishable one from another. An important problem, he thinks, is also the absence of coordination between democratic organizations in the campaign involving one-candidate electorates, where the struggle will largely consist of a contest between persons. Mr. Kharichev feared that seven or eight democrats rivaling with each other may lose to one opposition member. This is all the more likely because while they have been busy compiling federal lists of candidates, democrats have totally lost sight of the struggle in one-candidate electorates.

'Constructive' Ideas, Money Needed for Election Success

PM1510155393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 1

[Article by Presidential Council Member and Academician Andrey Zhukov: "Presidential Council Member Academician Andrey Zhukov Considers that Centrist Parties Are Coming to the Fore in Politics"]

[Text] The array of forces in the country has naturally still not finally been determined. However, it is already clear that extremist forces, both of the left and the right, have lost any serious support among the people. This why it is hard for them to count on any appreciable support from the electorate.

The recent events have objectively speaking reinforced the trend for parties to come to the forc in politics, which aim to strengthen the state both in the political and economic sense of the word—parties with more moderate, nonextremist views.

As far as the actual array of forces is concerned, it is evident that in the coming two months it will undergo significant changes. The point is that the election campaign has in effect not yet started. Experience tells us that it will enter its most active phase in a month's time, that is approximately at the beginning of November. It is at this very time that we should expect the appearance of certain leaders, parties, and movements which will be able to conduct their election campaign in an **effective** and **professional** manner.

Those organizations which conduct their campaigns effectively from a technical and tactical viewpoint will be able to win a majority of voters over to their side.

A particular feature of the coming election campaign is that those who win or have the best chance of doing so will, first, be those who are able to play a **professional** political game; second, those who put forward constructive ideas and refrain from being demagogues; and third, those who have access to the mass media, which will in turn require great financial investment.

It therefore seems to me that during the coming month a covert political game will be played whose aim is to build up financial resources. Finances are being collected right now, and some time at the beginning of November those who are able to collect money and organize themselves properly may take over the political leadership.

Nevertheless, the most important element in the political program is **not demagogy but specific constructive proposals.**

Media Issues

Banned Newpaper Editors Hold News Conference

LD1510115993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Report by I.Barchugov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The editors in chief of the newspapers that were initially suspended in connection with the state of emergency, and then closed by the 13 October decree of the Press and Information Ministry for adding to the destabilization of the situation in Moscow, held a news conference in Moscow today. The hall in the Russo-American Information Press Center could barely contain all those who wanted to attend this meeting.

Responding to journalists' questions, the editors in chief of the newspapers PRAVDA, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, and GLASNOST noted that control of the media was very attractive to those in authority, particularly on the eve of parliamentary elections. Gennadiy Seleznev, the editor in chief of PRAVDA who was

relieved of his post by the same decree the day before yesterday, expressed his doubts as to whether television will offer the opposition every chance to express its viewpoint.

In conclusion, Valentin Chikin, the editor in chief of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, expressed the hope that when the state of emergency is lifted on 18 October, this decree of the Ministry for the Press and Information will be wiped out and the Law on the Press will not be violated. If it transpires that this is not the case, then the labor collective of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA intends to take legal action.

Papers To Keep Names, Editors-in-Chief

LD1510123193 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Textt] Our correspondent Georgiy Savtsov has reported that it was announced at a press conference of the editors in chief of the opposition newspapers PRAVDA, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, and GLASNOST held on 15 October that the three newspapers are bringing court actions for material and moral damage caused to them as a result of their closure. The press conference stated that the instruction of the Ministry for Press to remove Chikin, the editor in chief of the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA newspaper, and Seleznev, the PRAVDA editor in chief, from their posts will not be carried out as they were elected by the labor collective of independent publications. The demand to change the names of PRAVDA and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA will not be carried out as well.

PRAVDA Head: Paper To Go Underground Until Ban Lifted

LD1510163493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1412 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Pravda has been making its reports public through other media and will do so until it resumes publication, Gennadiy Seleznyov, editor-in-chief of that newspaper which was suspended by the Press and Information Ministry, told Interfax. He emphasized that underground publication was unacceptable to him and, once the emergency rule is lifted, the working team of the newspaper would press both for restoring the editors' rights and for resumption of the publication through the court and the Prosecutor General's office. No explanation had been given to the publishers of the newspapers that were closed by order of the Press and Information Ministry. Editors-in-chief of Pravda, Glasnost and Sovetskaya Rossiya Gennadiy Seleznyov, Yuriy Izyumov and Valentin Chikin told journalists Friday. They emphasized that presidential decrees 1400 on dissolution of parliament and 1579 on introduction of emergency rule, referred to by ministry officials, did not mention the press. What is more, they said, Pravda and Glasnost had not been warned by the ministry for years and none of their reports had been refuted. The working teams of the newspapers, they said, rejected the ultimatum given by the ministry that they change the titles of the papers and heads of their editorial boards. "We are free independent editions. Nobody has ever imposed on us any ideological guidelines and the editors themselves define the concept of their paper," the managers of the newspapers said. In their words, by closing them down the country's leadership wanted the Russian press to learn a lesson of loyalty. "We are no desperados, we are fairly moderate and reflect different viewpoints even though we give preference to oppositional ones," one of the editors-in-chief said. In their view, the opposition has neither headquarters nor the opportunity to express its views, all of which means that the upcoming elections to the Federal Assembly, Russia's new parliament, will not be free. The editors-in-chief said that before they were suspended Sovetskaya Rossiya had a circulation of 750,000 and employed 61 personnel, Pravda had a circulation of 480,000 and employed 260 personnel and Glasnost had a circulation of 158,000 and employed 32 personnel. Yuriy Izyumov, editor-in-chief of Glasnost, said that the paper will not halt work under any circumstances. The paper intends to make its reports public by other means, he did not say what kind.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA Fears Attempts To End Independence

MK1610094593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "In Brief" column: "It Is Not Just Rumors"]

[Text] According to information available to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (and not only to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA), high-ranking officials of the present Russian Administration have been tasked with liquidating NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in its present shape. The cause for the move has been provided by the newspaper's independent professional stance and the occasion of its re-registration at the Russian Federation Ministry of the Press because the newspaper was founded by Mossovet. Re-registration documents were submitted to the Press Ministry on 15 October. Under Article 18 of the Russian Federation Law on the Mass Media, if the founder is abolished "its rights and duties in all of their entirety shall pass on to the editors." Fearing precisely this, the officials are currently trying urgently to find a mechanism to end the publication's independence.

Writer Criticizes Censorship Policies

MK1610095193 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 1

[Shod Muladzhanov feature: "Harass Not, That Ye Be Not Harassed"]

[Text] I admit I hated to write on this topic. Not only because it is complex and tricky, but rather for purely

human considerations: I have to argue with more sympathetic people and defend the position of less sympathetic (as regards politics) participants in the conflict. But anyway....

I am depressed by all show of a sweeping nature of any campaign, be it chemicalization, fighting alcoholism, collectivization, privatization, democratization, or, for example, checking trade licenses. A sweeping nature, with very rare exceptions, leads to arbitrariness, AND ARBITRARINESS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH DREAMS OF A RADIANT FUTURE AS I SEE IT. Arbitrariness is intolerable in a country whose ideals are democracy and progressive reforms.

It is twice as intolerable when one speaks of the freedom of speech and independence of the mass media. When a censorship lieutenant colonel is allowed to delete criticism of the president from a newspaper article, this is no longer protection of law and order, but violation of the basic legal norms. When newspapers are closed down according to a list compiled by no one knows who, this is a classic case of arbitrariness. This reeks too much of the suppression of dissenting views, an attempt to get rid of the opposition under the smokescreen of the state of emergency.

Let me stress right away that I sincerely hate fascists, nationalists and their ideologists. I detest stories in such publications as DEN, PULS TUSHINA, and their ilk. Such publications should be closed down but only by a clear legal procedure, by the prosecutor's office and court of law. It is unclear why this was not done before the tragic events of September-October. As the law and order organs and the Ministry of Information and the Press remained passive, why not make them answer, why not ask them to put things in order? Let me stress once again—within the legal framework.

Such newspapers as PRAVDA and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA are a different thing. I am far from being their admirer. I absolutely reject their political and ideological goals. I agree that they helped to stoke passions in society and to form the forces held responsible for the bloody October drama. But why were they not legally prosecuted before 3 October? Why were they not prevented from playing such a dirty role? Why were collectives of their editorial offices not warned, as is required under the law, of precisely which legal norms they were violating?

Next come things totally uncomprehensible. Who can fire a newspaper editor? The publisher, the founder. Does the Ministry of Information and the Press publish PRAVDA? If it does not, what sort of decisions were made on 14 October? Voicing its opinion, lodging a protest with the law and order organs is what the ministry can do. But closing down newspapers, firing someone else's employees, deciding who should be published under which name is of course someone else's job.

Arbitrariness leads to a total breakdown of law and order, this much is obvious. Bans result in the appearance of forbidden and for this reason especially desirable fruits. Like the newspaper DEN, which has by now earned the status of an underground newspaper and for this reason has become interesting even for those who are far from the ideas of national-chauvinism. Well, there would also appear an underground PRAVDA—who will be the better for it? Until recently, it was read by a rather definite circle of people: admirers of communist ideas plus those who, for professional or some other reasons, wish to keep in the field of vision the entire spectrum of political views. Can we re-educate communists overnight? Or should we drive them underground to join the camp of the suppressed and persecuted for their convictions, and for this reason, traditionally liked by the majority of Russian voters? Can the simple renaming of PRAVDA change the situation, or serve democracy in any way? Would PRAVDA people and their Greek master come to adore Yeltsin and renounce Lenin's heritage, call to vote for Yakunin and Ponomarev, and admit that Rutskoy is a criminal?

The topic of the election campaign generally is clearly visible in this story. The presidential team is running the risk of repeating the mistakes of the CPSU Central Committee "strategists," who used against Yeltsin the clearly losing tactic of public persecution, suppression. I repeat again and again: There is no mistaking tough laws for cruel arbitrariness—different methods, different results. One cannot and should not harass the opposition. You can win in an argument of ideas, but it is also easy to lose in an argument of cobblestones....

Press Ministry Cited on Ban on PRAVDA, Other Paper

PM1810090193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Oct 93 First Edition p 2

[Inga Prelovskaya report: "Having Changed Its Name, PRAVDA Intends To Return to Readers as a Newspaper of Civilized Opposition"]

[Text] As already reported, V. Shumeyko, Russian Federation minister of the press and information, guided by the Russian Federation president's Edict No. 1400, has terminated the activities of the newspapers DEN, RUSSKOYE DELO, RUSSKOYE VOSKRESENYE, and a number of others, since "the substance of their materials was one of the factors which provoked mass rioting in Moscow in September and October 1993." Criminal proceedings are being instituted against these publications. At the same time, the ministry has reported, publication of PRAVDA and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA can be resumed after their reregistration under different names. PRAVDA Chief Editor G. Seleznev and also SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA Chief Editor V. Chikin and Yu. Nikolayev, his deputy, have been released from their posts.

Commenting at our request on the legal aspect of this situation, S. Luknitskiy, chief of the Press and Mass Information Protection Administration, and V. Solodin, his deputy, said that the ministry was guided in its

decision by the president's well-known Edict No. 1400 and also Edict No. 1452, which speaks of the responsibility of officials who were involved in the Moscow riots or helped them to happen. They also referred to the president's Edict No. 1578, which says, in particular, that in connection with the introduction of the state of emergency the Ministry of the Press must take measures, including punitive measures, against those mass media which helped to destablize the political situation.

"We believe, however," the ministry's representatives said, "that PRAVDA and SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA can and must be revived as organs of civilized opposition if they accept the terms put before them: If they change their name, reregister, and make sensible corrections to their course. We have allowed these newspapers to keep their subscription indexes so as not to wreck their subscription. We regret that 'delicate circumstances' have arisen in connection with the suspension of these newspapers." Thus, according to Solodin, "Pressa" Publishing House Director V. Leontyev has already hastened to order the newspapers to vacate their premises. The ministry is now awaiting the decisions of these newspapers' labor collectives.

PRAVDA's Acting Chief Editor Aleksandr Ilin reported the following: "Under conditions when we have to reckon with the circumstances of the state of emergency, the collective, seeking to resume the newspaper's publication as quickly as possible, has tended toward a compromise. We have decided to change the name of the newspaper and to reregister it. This has happened before in PRAVDA's history. As regards cadre affairs, on the orders of the Ministry of the Press I have been appointed acting chief editor in the place of Seleznev, who has been released from his post. It is hard for us now to speak about the legal aspect of this order. At the same time PRAVDA is an independent newspaper in terms of its status, and its work procedure, funding, and the election of members of the editorial board and the chief editor are defined by its charter. So the final decision on the newspaper's leadership will be left to the labor collective. In terms of the newspaper's course it will be an opposition newspaper, but we must be a press organ of civilized opposition—which will require changes to be made both to the newspaper's contents and to the nature of the presentation of materials. But the newspaper must not lose its identity and its subscriber. We hope that we will be able to be involved in covering the election preparations in order to ensure the more multifaceted reflection of the positions and approaches which exist in society."

Intellectuals' Opposition to Moves Against Press Viewed

PM1810093793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Oct 93 Morning Edition p 8

[Article by Yuriy Mann, doctor of philological sciences: "Witch-Hunt Talk Is Intellectual Complacency"]

[Text] The weekly ARGUMENTY I FAKTY (No. 40) has just published an item under the headline "The Pluses and Minuses of the Political Crisis for the President," in which the "minus" section includes the following: "A decline in his standing in the eyes of intellectuals as a result of the closure of opposition newspapers."

Here we go again! You will recall how these "opposition newspapers" were recommending that unsuitable people be eliminated and paraded through the streets of Moscow like German prisoners of war—and clearly not to health clinics and rest homes but to other places... And all this is supposed to be to the intelligentsia's liking, whereas somebody who takes measures against this, it transpires, loses his standing in their eyes! This must be some kind of masochism...

The interrelationship between those forces known as national patriotic and the democratic intelligentsia (at least a large proportion of it) has developed in a rather strange way recently. It would have been logical to expect covertness and secretiveness from the former and rejection of these qualities by the latter. In fact, however, everything happened the other way around. The former were brazen and told the whole world what they were seeking, while the latter continuously strove to provide them with a few more fig leaves. They averred that they were fascists, their spiritual father was Hitler, their symbol was the swastika slightly updated by Slavic curlicues... And our response to them was: Come off it, guys! You don't understand yourselves, you are our constructive opposition, you see the other side of things that escapes superficial observation, and therefore you are simply essential for us to make speedy progress toward democracy. And we offered them love—unfortunately unrequited.

The combined efforts of motley forces led to a situation in which is is no longer shameful in our country to be a fascist. And to fail to discern the "germ of rationality" and "driving stimulus" in them is unmodern and undemocratic.

And what about vegetarian notions of opposition! After all, we are not talking about conservatives, monarchists, clericalists, antimercantalists, greens, or even doves... For some reason we don't hear too much about their activities; for some reason all our alternative platforms have shifted with a vengeance in the same well-known direction. And it is no means nationalism that is at the root of everything, as is often claimed—things would not be so bad if we were talking about "pure nationalism." Not so long ago an American journal conducted a curious study according to which 16 out of 18 nationalist publications produced in Russia (the figure is deliberately incomplete, of course) are infected with rabid chauvinism drawn from Hitler's *Mein Kampf* and the *Protocols of Zion*, which have long been rejected throughout the world as a dirty fake but continue to to find ardent admirers in our country (COMMENTARY, May 1993, p 38).

And this is followed by the not unknown Moscow channel commentator Anel Merkulov rushing in to warn against a witch-hunt. God save us from such a thing, but there is indeed a real, noninvented dirty force against which we do have to protect ourselves.

One more interesting popular thought: Shutting down fascist newspapers, the argument goes, will drive them underground, and forbidden fruit is sweet. This is tantamount to saying that outlawing murder or robbery will drive them underground. Misanthropic ideology, so long as it exists, must indeed be underground! It is then much less harmful than when it is walking freely abroad.

What a complex and motley thing these intellectual complexes are; so much so that it is impossible to say precisely who should take comfort from what is being said—those with an imaginary grievance, or their protectors with their sense of self-sufficiency, originality, dissimilarity to others, and ability to play a subtle and uplifting game... "It's nothing more than a game; you have your innermost secrets and your symbol is the Glass Bead Game. I am prepared to believe that you are trying to convert this gentle game into some semblance of a sacrament or at least a means of spiritual uplift." (Hermann Hesse, *The Glass Bead Game*).

All this is understandable, natural, and even forgivable. The only thing is that from time to time you should ask yourself who you are playing with and for what stakes. So that beads are not forged into bullets again.

Federal Information Center To Be Reorganized

LD1710154893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1400 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] A draft presidential edict has been drawn up to bolster the Federal Information Center [FIC]. FIC head Mikhail Poltoranin told a news conference today. He said that all state producers of information would be brought under the aegis of the FIC, while the Ministry of Information and the Press would be reorganized.

Poltoranin also announced that oblast and rayon newspapers would receive state support for a certain amount of time, and once they had strengthened their position they would be set free. Thereby, Poltoranin emphasized, we will avoid the mistakes of past years, when all local newspapers were given their freedom and were then immediately taken under the control of the local soviets.

Regional Affairs

State of Emergency Still in Force in Moscow

Mayor Considers 'Visa Entry Regime'

LD1510112193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1043 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Sugak]

[Text] Moscow October 15 TASS—Moscow may introduce a visa entry regime to combat crime after the state of emergency is lifted in the Russian capital, according to Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov who made it clear that he personally prefers Russian traders to Caucasian ones.

He told TASS on Friday that the visa idea was supported by the Russian president. "We shall now clean the city" from unwanted people, Luzhkov said referring to the campaign aimed at forcing people without residence permits to leave the capital. He added that the same thing should be done in the Moscow region as well because those who were sent away usually settle down in the region waiting for the state of emergency to be lifted in the capital.

The deportation campaign was targeted against the so-called "Caucasian" minorities who were actively trading in Moscow markets selling mostly exotic fruits and who were widely believed to be the main source of crime in the capital.

Luzhkov put it flatly that he prefers Russian traders to Caucasian ones. He admitted that exotic fruits may disappear from Moscow markets, but said that "honest traders from (the Russian cities of) Tambov, Lipetsk, Bryansk and other places will arrive with good products and will sell traditional Russian food. These should be marketplaces of an open type, not a home for mafia", he added.

After "Caucasians" were forced out of Moscow prices in city markets radically went up. However, many of the Caucasians had already got a residence permit and are sure to help their ethnic kin bypass new barriers.

Police Patrols To Continue

LD1510125593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1157 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow October 15 TASS—Moscow will retain reinforced police patrols after the state of emergency is lifted on Monday, according to Deputy Security Minister Yevgeniy Savostyanov.

"Certain elements of the state of emergency will be adjusted to normal conditions to promote anti-crime fight", he told TASS on Friday explaining that "those positive aspects of work which were found in conditions of the state of emergency, in particular the reinforced regime of public order protection, will be used in the future as well".

He added that hard-line parties and publications suspended during the state of emergency will remain banned, but rallies and demonstrations will be allowed to give the people a possibility to participate in the election campaign.

"Those organisations which were outlawed do not enjoy such a right", Savostyanov said.

OMON Detains 95 Kurds

LD1510150493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1326 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By CRIME PRESS correspondent Larisa Kislinskaya]

[Text] Moscow October 15 TASS—A total of 95 Kurds were detained by the OMON [special purpose militia detachment] special police unit on October 14 on downtown Moscow Pushkin Square near the IZVESTIYA building—the traditional place of their gatherings.

Sources at the Moscow main Interior Department told ITAR-TASS today, it was part of state of emergency arrangements to expel from the capital foreigners that do not have residence permit.

As for warning shots, the deputy OMON unit commander thrice fired into the air when a Kurd wounded his arm with a knife. There is no other casualties. The detained were brought to a police station for identification.

2,700 Arrested for Curfew Violation

LD1610115893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Between 0000 and 0500 on 16 October, 2,700 people were detained in Moscow for violating the curfew, and 42 were arrested for criminal offenses. INTERFAX learned this at the press center of the state of emergency commandant's office. Thirty-two criminal cases have been instituted, 1,732 people have been made liable under administrative law, and 324 have been expelled from Moscow. Two civilians were wounded last night for failing to obey a patrol's demand to stop.

Support for Extending State of Emergency

PM1510200093 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Oct 93 First Edition pp 1, 4

[Article by Yuriy Levada of the All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion on Social and Economic Questions: "Nostalgia for Firm Hand? Most Muscovites Advocate Democracy Under State-of-Emergency Conditions"]

[Text] The state of emergency in Moscow is into its second week. It officially ends 18 October, but the City Hall Press Center has disseminated a report that there have been numerous appeals to President Boris Yeltsin and Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov from labor collectives asking for the state-of-emergency regime to be extended. In particular, the collectives at the "Spektr," "Rekord," "Izolit," and "ZIL" Plants in the capital, the "Rot Front" Confectionery Factory, and others have been pressing for this.

This mass nostalgia for a firm hand is also confirmed by the results of a sociological survey carried out by staffers at the All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion on Social and Economic Questions.

"What is your attitude to the decision to extend the state-of-emergency regime in Moscow?"

Positive—75 percent

Negative—16 percent

Don't know—9 percent

We are witnessing quite a rare example whereby the opinions of a considerable majority of people coincide. And the difference in the positions of the young and old, the highly educated and those who did not finish school is virtually negligible. Moreover, the proportion of people who agree to the extension of the state of emergency is higher among those with higher education than among the less well educated (74 and 69 percent correspondingly; although, admittedly, a degree increases the number of those who disagree to 10 percent, and among students the figure rises to 15 percent). This sort of thing only happens in unusual, militarized situations, when diverse opinions are reduced to a simple "pro or con." In usual, "normal" situations, people have a normal diversity of view. Moreover, we are talking about a surprising unanimity in the approval given to the state of emergency. This mood—and among what are, to a certain extent, Moscow's avant-garde, elite circles—worries many people, me included. But, first and foremost, we need an explanation.

It is obvious that society's state of mind is not laid down by edict. There is no doubt that a powerful and inchoate yearning for some kind of order is at work. It has been decisively revealed by all the surveys of recent months as a reaction to the onset of chaos and uncontrollability. Overlaid on this background, of course, is the shock engendered by the recent October events. And along with it, simple temptations for strong-arm solutions not only in political spheres but in everyday city life as well. A particular kind of logic—the logic of confrontation—is at work and expanding its range of operation. For many people the slogan of "purging" the Russian capital with the help of armed and trigger-happy patrols is an attractive prospect. Probably partly because the instrument used to instill order is an outside firm hand rather than the normal city authorities, the law, or society—in other words, not you or I.

Yet it has long been known that complex problems do not have simple solutions. When the time comes to seriously take stock, we will probably recognize that stopping people at random or even detaining malicious passers-by on major thoroughfares will not have had such a great impact on the overall state of crime over the month, quarter, or year. And that replacing dealers from the "southern" trading mafia at Moscow markets with their "Muscovite" colleagues will not have reduced market prices and will have done little to improve food supplies to the capital's residents. And that this cavalry-like cutting off of branches for effect is failing to remove—much less uproot—obsolete forces and structures from the social scene.

I am not going to discuss the moral and legal problems of the state of emergency—a great deal has rightly been said about them in the press over the past few days. It should just be remembered that weapons can be double-edged (not just militia nightsticks) and one of those edges undoubtedly affects us by distorting and blinding with violence those who use it. However noble the ultimate aim may be. If violence has not been prevented, we need to strive to rid ourselves of it as quickly and as completely as possible. However hard it may be. It will be hard to convince a society that has gotten used to states of emergency that this is the right approach, but it has to be done.

Chief Editor Urges Emergency Rule Lifting

MK1610105593 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 66, 16 Oct 93 p 1

[Article by Dmitriy Ostalskiy, SEGODNYA editor in chief: "State of Emergency: Rake Instead of Scalpel"]

[Text] The state of emergency in Moscow, as some high-ranking officials claim, will soon come to naught. It is fairly likely that technically this will indeed be done by the promised date, that is, 18 October. The technical lifting of the state of emergency, however, does not mean that emergency methods will be given up. The thing is that they, these methods, as practice has shown, are a perfect little trick for top officials to rid themselves of complexes related to their professional inadequacy.

The introduction of the state of emergency in the first days after the quelling of the rebellion was, undoubtedly, a justified and useful measure. But, having spent certain strength on catching the scattered hitmen who remained at large, the machine of oppression has hit its typical track: an all-out oppression began. Of course, it is much easier to deport all "persons of Caucasus nationality" from Moscow along with southern vegetables from Moscow markets than to engage in the painstaking work of eliminating criminal gangs. It is easier to introduce a curfew and to ban everything that can move from moving than to develop safety devices to protect cars from hijacking, to build garages, or to search for hijackers. It is easier to ban all the opposition publications en masse or to fire their chief editors without any legal grounds, and to demand that they "change their profile," than to take efforts to have the national-bolshevik newspapers banned lawfully—by court.

There is one thing the advocates of "temporary" emergency measures cannot realize. Arbitrariness is inveigling. The further, the more often it will be required, the higher the level of violence that will be needed. At the same time, the logic of arbitrary rule is such that it will soon backfire against those who started it.

Emergency rule always corrupts people: both the powers that be and the entire society. What results has the already famous combing of Moscow markets produced? And what about the campaign for the deportation of southerners? And road checks? To say nothing of the moral side to the incidents, although everything that is going on in Moscow has raised not simply concern in the civilized world, but already explicit accusations of mass human rights violations. I would like to ask the custodians of the state of emergency: What good have these measures done for fighting crime or for my security as a citizen, for the sake of which all this is ostensibly being done? Somehow, there have so far been no reports on detaining a chief of a large criminal group or on exposing the activity of a Mafia clan.

It is perfectly known, though, that a charge of 20,000 rubles has been established—just pay it and no deportation will threaten you, whether you are an Azerbaijani, an Armenian, or a Kurd (20,000 rubles any time you are stopped by the patrol, so even very well-off "persons" are groaning). Incidents of blackmail and downright robbery by "law enforcers" have been reported. The further they go, the greater their appetites. This is also part of the inevitable logic of emergency rule.

I do not know whether the president and the government realize that the goings-on discredit them more than anything any authors of SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, even those of the worst devil-may-care type, could dream about. And that this poses just as serious a threat as the entrenched deputies at the White House some time ago. Elections conducted in such conditions will not be recognized as fair by Russian society or the outside world. After some time, this may play an evil trick on the fate of Russian democracy and reform. If we choose to hold elections, let us discard the state of emergency, whether in its direct manifestation or disguised as "the stepping up of the fight against crime." We do need to combat crime, but not by mass raids.

Mayor's Office To Govern Moscow

LD1710135393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] For the next two months, the mayor's office will have power over the city since the capital's soviets have been liquidated, so Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov said in an interview published in the latest edition of ARGUMENTY I FAKTY weekly. In his opinion, after the elections to the Moscow duma, which will comprise around 40 deputies, there should be parity between the legislative and executive authorities. This will lead to an increase in the efficiency of their work.

Everything needed for the work of the city duma will be supplied. The premises formerly used by the soviets will be used for the city's needs. Welfare bodies, courts, and the city military registration and enlistment office will be accommodated in them. Part of the building will be given over to the expansion of Moscow's museums, Yuriy Luzhkov noted.

Moscow Crime Rate 'Evened Up'

LD1710144393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] The press office of the Commandant for the State of Emergency in Moscow says crime rate in Moscow has evened up. It put the number of people detained for serious crimes overnight at 26. A total of 1,454 people were detained for committing minor offences and 2,156 for curfew violations. As many as detainees face criminal charges and 1.409 fine penalties with 309 people being sent away from Moscow.

Police haul includes one unit of firearms, two cold steel, 72 rounds of ammunition and about 150 grammes of drugs. Out of a total of 2,352 vehicles inspected, 116 were detained.

State of Emergency Ends; Tightened Security Continues

LD1810030593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0220 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Karlov]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 18 Oct—The state of emergency in Moscow was canceled at 0500 today. "But while the state of emergency and the curfew are being canceled, a tightened regime for defending law and order in the capital will be maintained," Aleksandr Kotenkov, head of the state legal administration, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent. "This regime will not affect the rights and liberties of citizens secured by the constitution, and above all it will not affect their electoral rights and liberties in connection with campaigns for elections to the Federal Assembly." [passage omitted]

Operation Signal-Ring, which is being carried out by the Moscow militia, will probably continue. No official reports have yet been received on future actions of military units introduced additionally into the capital. There is also no information as to whether free entry will be opened into Moscow.

Mayor Promises New Residence Rules

LD1810081593 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0400 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] The external democratic law on free movement within the borders of the Russian Federation cannot have full effect in Moscow. This is the view of Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov. In his words, documents currently being prepared by the mayor's office to regulate the residence in Moscow of persons from other towns will serve the interests of the capital and its inhabitants. We welcome those coming to do business and take part in honest trading, but we will expel those intending to dictate prices in the markets, trade in narcotics, or commit thefts and robberies. Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov said it is wrong that Muscovites should fear to go out onto the streets of their own city.

Regions Still at Odds on Soviets' Future

PM1510153793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 14 Oct 93 p

[Reports by correspondents Vyacheslav Stepanov, Margarita Ziangirova, and Ivan Pyrkh under the general headline "Regions Make Their Choice""]

[Text] **Powers Relinquished Early**

Yakutsk—The extraordinary session of the Republic of Sakha Supreme Soviet lasted only an hour. The question on the agenda was indeed historic: the reformation of the organs of representative power in the northern region.

It was noted in the speech of Supreme Soviet Chairman K. Ivanov that in three years the current membership had done much for the republic's political, economic, and social life.

But now, in view of the sociopolitical situation, there is a pressing need to create a new system of representative organs and legislative power. The deputies therefore decided to voluntarily relinquish their powers early.

As had been done previously, the session's draft decree was discussed in detail with parliamentarians the day before. That is why a motion was received to do without a debate. According to the adopted document the concepts of a new parliament—the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) Legislative Assembly—and the president's proposal to create a Supreme Legal Court to replace the Constitutional Court were approved.

The assembly will consist of two chambers. The upper chamber will have 35 deputies representing the republic's cities and rayons. It will adopt constitutional laws, the budget, and decisions on confidence in the government and on the dismissal of officials, and will give consent to the lower chamber's dissolution.

The lower chamber will have up to 25 deputies. They will operate on a permanent, professional basis.

Adopted laws will be signed by the republic president, who will have the right to veto laws adopted by the parliament and to dissolve the lower chamber of parliament.

The date of the elections to the renewed parliament has been set for 12 December 1993. Until it has adopted the law on local organs of self-government the activity of local soviets at all levels is terminated.

Still in Transitional Period [subhead]

Omsk—An extraordinary session of the city soviet of people's deputies at Omsk Sociopolitical Center lasted around four hours. The question "On the Soviet's Activity in the Current Political Situation" was discussed.

In simple terms the deputies had to make a classic choice: To be or not to be? To disband the soviet themselves or to continue its functions until elections to the State Duma have begun?

City Soviet Chairman Vladimir Varnavskiy, who spoke at the very beginning of the session's proceedings, assessed the soviet's work favorably and noted "that self-disbandment is a political step entailing the transfer of politicians' ambitions from Moscow to the provinces, where fortunately such open confrontation between the branches of power does not exist and fewer political games are played." Vladimir Alekseyevich called on the deputies to make the right and proper choice.

It must be noted right away that the opinions of the city soviet deputies' corps were not unequivocal. Thus, in his speech Deputy G. Fridman proposed that Omsk City Soviet be declared disbanded—which most speakers met with a refusal. A majority of votes supported a draft decision saying that "until new organs of representative power and local self-government have been elected and have started work the city soviet of people's deputies will exercise its powers in accordance with existing Russian Federation legislation which does not contradict the president's edict."

Omsk Oblast Voters' Club has made an appeal supporting the president's edict "On the Reform of Representative Organs of Power and Organs of Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation." But a representative of several electoral districts at the session called on the deputies to carry on working and not to disband.

Thus, Omsk City Soviet of People's Deputies declared that it would continue its vital activities.

Collegium Rescinds Its Decision

Bryansk—On 12 October Bryansk Oblast Administration Collegium tried to resolve two important questions. It proved extremely difficult to deal with the first—to express its attitude to the soviets still in existence. The point is that the collegium members, elected to this organ this April under the pro-communist regime, are incapable of taking a bold step to influence the soviets' future. Many of them have been associated with the soviets for many years of their lives and had careers in senior posts.

The way they sat silent and sullen was an eloquent counter to the inducements, elucidations, and exhortations of V. Karpov, acting head of the oblast administration. Very few of them showed an understanding of the realities of the political and social situation in Russia, including the situation in their own oblast.

No wonder this collegium's decision was so cautious and evasive: It advised the oblast's representative organs of power to consider the question of terminating their activity. In other words what lies ahead is more—maybe even protracted—dilatoriness by the soviets, most of whose deputies supported Khasbulatov and Rutskoy with the former oblast administration, swearing allegiance to them two days after the publication of the president's Edict No. 1400.

However, at today's session this collegium's members unanimously voted in favor, rescinding their decision to support the former Supreme Soviet and its former leaders. In short, the authorities did not have the heart for one problem, while they were through with the other in a flash so as not to distance themselves, as the saying goes, from today's real power.

Soviets Review Decisions, Reforms

PM1510134393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 2

[Roundup of reports by Valeriy Bedernikov from Orenburg, Valeriy Golovin from Khabarovsk, and Nikolay Belyy from Blagoveshchensk under "Regions" rubric]

[Text] **Orenburg Oblast Soviet Repeals Its Decision**

Orenburg—An extraordinary session of Orenburg Oblast Soviet took place last Monday. There were several items on the agenda—the election of judges to rayon and city courts and the election of representatives to district electoral commissions supervising the election of deputies to the State Duma. But the most important thing for the people's elected representatives was a discussion of Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin's appeal to Oblast Soviet Chairman V.N. Grigoryev proposing that he reconsider the previous session's decision, in which the deputies deemed Yeltsin's edict dissolving the Supreme Soviet unconstitutional.

After a stormy discussion the deputies repealed the previous decision with due regard for the changed political situation. The session did not resort to self-dissolution of the corps of deputies, explaining that in the present situation it is necessary to ensure the normal functioning of the oblast's national economic complex. At the same time some deputies announced that they were relinquishing their duties as deputies.

They Discredited Themselves

Khabarovsk—While acknowledging the idea of reforming representative organs of power as expedient, Khabarovsk deputies still did not wish to reform themselves. Leaving everything as it is, Wednesday's session of the kray soviet entrusted the inner soviet with exercising its powers, albeit only in one respect—"in tackling questions of reforming representative organs of power."

The kray soviet deputies also repealed individual points in their previous decisions concerning President Boris Yeltsin's edict "On Stage-by-Stage Constitutional Reform in the Russian Federation."

With regard to self-dissolution they agreed that the deputies had not received such powers from the electorate. N. Muratov, chairman of Komsomolskiy-na-Amure Rayon Soviet, said to this: "We discredited ourselves. We set the population against ourselves, and it no longer trusts us...."

No Soviets on the Lena, But There Still Are on the Amur

Blagoveshchensk—Mikhail Nikolayev, president of the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia), has told deputies of the Yakut parliament that, unless they adopt the courageous decision to dissolve themselves, the head of the executive will be left with no choice but to resort to "surgical" intervention. The president believes that the sovereign republic's representative organs of power must be reformed into a two-chamber parliament. The upper chamber will be represented by 15 to 18 deputies working on a permanent basis, while the lower chamber will have one representative from each of Yakutia's 36 rayons.

The Supreme Soviet session held 12 October adopted a decision on self-dissolution. The Yakut Supreme Soviet apparatus has reported that henceforth soviet power does not exist in the republic.

The situation is different concerning the middle Amur. Here the matter has not gone so far as the soviets' self-dissolution, although calls for this are being heard increasingly frequently. An extraordinary session of Amur Oblast Soviet was held only at the third attempt. The deputies were faced with revising the session's decision with regard to the unconstitutional nature of Edict No. 1400 and discussing the president's recent edict dismissing Oblast Administration Head A. Suret. They passed the following decision: to stick to their guns and still deem Edict No. 1400 unconstitutional.

To cap it all, the deputies also disagreed with the president's edict dismissing Former Administration Head Suret. It was decided to send a petition to the Russian Constitutional Court. Vladimir Polevanov, the new head of the oblast executive appointed by the president soon after the events in Moscow, has decreed that the oblast administration should temporarily assume the executive-administrative functions of the oblast soviet until the election of the new representative organ of state power. The Amur Oblast Administration has petitioned the Russian Federation president to terminate the powers of Amur Oblast Soviet.

Tomsk Rescinds Resolution

LD1610215393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] A session of the Tomsk Oblast Soviet has rescinded the resolution of the Inner Soviet which earlier ruled that President Boris Yeltsin's decree No. 1400 was null and void on the territory of Tomsk Oblast.

This is probably the last session of the soviet in this form, since the session has instituted a parliament of Tomsk Oblast. Elections to the parliament are to be held at the same time as elections in the State Duma.

Novosibirsk Deputies Agree at 'Gunpoint'

MK1610122793 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 66, 16 Oct 93 (signed to press 15 Oct) p 3

[Lyudmila Moskalenko report under the "Siberia" rubric: "Novosibirsk Oblast Soviet Decides To Reform Itself. Deputies Claim They Agreed to it "At Submachine Gunpoint"]

[Text] In September, soviets in Novosibirsk Oblast came close to matching the Supreme Soviet in Moscow for intolerance. The oblast was once again included in the list of the recalcitrants, but not for long. Its inhabitants, as Deputy Ananin noted at that time, remained indifferent enough: the only meeting in support of the decisions made by the inner soviet and the administration—comprised of 800 people—cannot exactly be termed as attesting to high political activity in a city of 1.5 million.

In the present session of the oblast soviet, the deputies backpedaled. As the Soviet's Chairman Anatoliy Sychev put it: "Today, there is no real power to offer resistance. A temporary retreat is no betrayal; it is action, too." In order to avoid the appearance of "white houses" in the regions, the chairman, this time with the utmost exactness, logically called on the deputies to remain calm and be sensible politicians. That perhaps took effect. At any rate, they voted against early elections of the president and the referendum in the oblast on 12 December to see what the voters thought about early elections for the representative authority.

The deputies decided to hold elections for "the oblast parliament" concurrently with Federal Assembly elections. It was proposed to change the date of elections from 12 December to a later date (which was not named). The preparations for and the holding of the elections will proceed in line with the normative base set by federal organs.

"We are doing all that at submachine gunpoint," said Deputy Anichkin, demanding that the session's verbatim record be published in the newspaper SOVETSKAYA SIBIR. Taking into account the fact that head of administration Vitaliy Mukha had been removed from office, the deputies decided to ask President Yeltsin for early elections for the leadership of the Novosibirsk Oblast administration.

Yeltsin 'Final Decision' Urged

LD1710164793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] The confrontation between the government and the executive power in Altay Kray remains heated. In order to resolve this issue, Boris Yeltsin must in the next few days, adopt a final decision on the dissolution of local Soviets. This was stated today to a Mayak correspondent by Russian Federation presidential representative in that region, Nikolay Shuba.

According to him, the deputies who deemed Presidential Decree No. 1400 of 21 September this year invalid on the kray's territory, have not changed their decision even following the failed October mutiny instigated by Rutskoy and Khasbulatov.

This comes after Boris Yeltsin's numerous requests that they consider his suggestions on the reorganization of the representative power in the region.

Nikolay Shuba, who is incidentally a former Russian Federation people's deputy, believes that the pro-Communist majority of the Altay Parliament led by the speaker is unable to compromise, and therefore, the president of Russia must act more decisively.

Sakhalin Council Tries To Meet

LD1810091393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0519 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Valeriy Gvozdikov, Yevgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk October 18 TASS—The Sakhalin Regional Council has twice attempted to hold an emergency session, but the attempts were to no avail since both times there was no necessary quorum.

The tactics of those deputies who failed to turn up at the session was simple enough - to ensure that a previously adopted decision, rendering the Russian president's decree of September 21 on a stage-by-stage constitutional reform invalid on the territory of the region, remain in force.

Under these circumstances, governor of the Sakhalin region, Yevgeniy Krasnoyarov, passed a resolution to temporarily transfer all powers and functions of the Regional Council to the regional administration.

A juridical basis for such a resolution is Point 5 of the Russian president's decree of October 9 "on the reform of representative bodies of power and local government in the Russian Federation." An extraordinary session to be held by present deputies of the Regional Council and which was disrupted, turned out to be the last one. Sessions of the Minor Council have been cancelled as well.

A commission has been set up to provide jobs for former deputies of the Regional Council working on a permanent basis and those on staff of the Regional Council. Owners of peoples' deputies' mandates retain their status of people's deputies until a new representative body of power is elected in the region.

Chelyabinsk Governor Dissolves Legislature

LD1510151693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0756 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Evgeniy Tkachenko]

[Text] Chelyabinsk October 15 TASS—Head of the Chelyabinsk regional administration in the Urals, Vadim Solovyov, dissolved the local legislature on Friday for refusing to revise its anti- presidential decision and criminal proceedings have been instituted against several local parliament leaders.

The regional parliament was among the 15 most tough opponents of President Boris Yeltsin and resolutely condemned his decree dissolving federal parliament.

The Chelyabinsk chief executive stated in a resolution that the local parliament did not even try to hold a session to revise its anti-Yeltsin decision.

Criminal proceedings have been instituted against soviet leaders of the region for "appeals to a forced change of the constitutional system" or for "the seizure of power." Speaker Nacharov had been summoned for interrogation.

Investigators are examining the activities of Aleksandr Kaunov, chairman of the economic council of the reginal soviet, who directly participated in the tragic events in Moscow in October.

Country Continues To Prepare for Elections

Districts in Chechnya To Take Part

MK1510135093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 3

[Unattributed NEGA report in "Chechen Republic" column]

[Text] The administration of Nadterechnyy Rayon has decided to take part in elections to the Russian Federation State Duma.

There are unconfirmed reports suggesting that part of Chechnya's districts, where, like in Nadterechnyy Rayon, opposition to Dudayev is based, intend to contest the 12 December elections.

Preparations Continue

LD1610162693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1553 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Moscow October 16 TASS—Russia is getting ready for the elections to the Federal Assembly and settling the problem of people's deputy councils. The political life is rather active despite weekend.

Kazan—A resolution of the Tatar Government says the Cabinet of Ministers will guarantee the elections of the Federation Council and the Russian State Duma. Heads of city and regional administrations have been offered to provide for free expression of will of local residents. It is decided to form electoral districts in all cities and regions before October 28 to join the Russian parliament elections and set up electoral commissions before November 2.

Khabarovsk—A new choice coalition was created in the Khabarovsk region by the local organization of the economic freedom party and representatives of the Christian-Democratic and other parties.

The coalition has nominated candidates to the federal and local power bodies. The candidates plan to advocate the interests of businessmen and other layers of the population.

Naryan Mar—A resolution of the Nenets autonomous district administration recognized as incapable the district council and deprived it of executive-administrative and other functions. The reason for the resolution was the absence of quorum at both the small council and the session.

Still, the district council will not be dissolved, the status of deputies will be preserved, said Deputy Administration Head Venyamin Tungusov. Before the elections the administration will execute representative functions.

Nalchik—The Supreme Soviet of Kabardino-Balkariya canceled today its resolution saying the Russian president's decree on stage- by-stage constitutional reform is not valid on republican territory.

It was decided to reform the supreme representative body of Kabardino-Balkariya. Its early elections will be held simultaneously with the elections of the Russian Federal assembly. The Supreme Soviet has not dissolved itself. It will continue working same as local councils of the republic.

Moscow—The first issue of the Central Electoral Commission's bulletin has been released.

The issue opens with an article by Commission Chairman Nikolay Ryabov and carries provisions on the elections of the State Duma, provisions on federal power bodies in the transitional period, provisions on the Central Electoral Commission, information on its membership and plan of arrangements to elect the State Duma.

The next issue will carry normative documents to clarify the procedure of elections of the Federation Council and the State Duma, sources at the Central Electoral commission's press service told ITAR-TASS.

Maritime Kray Groups Form Bloc

LD1710123693 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1100 GMT 17 Oct 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The Maritime Kray organizations of the Social Democratic and Republican Parties, as well as the Maritime Kray Liberal Alliance, has decided to pool efforts in a pre-election bloc.

At a founding conference of the Russia's Choice Movement in Vladivostok, they set up a coordinating committee, an administrative body of this movement's kray organization, and elected candidates to the party list of the Russia's Choice movement for the elections of deputies to the State Duma from Maritime Kray.

Regional Reaction to Events in Moscow Continues

Kemerovo's Tuleyev Comments

LD1510201293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Report by announcer Tatyana Komarova and correspondent Nikolay Chirkov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Komarova] People are fed up with political fighting, but it continues. We have already reported on the dispute in Kemerovo. The latest session of the Kemerovo oblast soviet of people's deputies failed to reach any opinion because it was inquorate, so it was deadlocked.

[Chirkov] The situation is that the presidential decree on reform of the executive has begun to be put into effect. In accordance with it, all the executive and allocation functions of the oblast soviet have been transferred to the oblast administration. Thus, the soviets here have ceased to exist.

The chairman of the Kemerovo Oblast Soviet, Aman Gumirovich Tuleyev, is categorically against the dissolution of the Kuzbass' democratic authorities.

[Begin recording] [Tuleyev] The cause of the dispute lies elsewhere: in the confrontation between two differing approaches to reform policy currently being pursued. Should all this dissolution of the oblast soviet be allowed? Of course not. It will have the opposite effect and will exacerbate confrontation in society. There must be the wisdom and sense to stop this confrontation and start working for the sake of the people.

[Chirkov] Many people are saying that all the infighting will stop after elections are held. What do you think?

[Tuleyev] A number of workforces and trade unions in the oblast have already asked me to run for election to the State Duma or Federal Assembly. I am against doing this. First, I consider these elections unlawful. Second, it will be Yeltsin's pocket parliament and will do nothing for Russia. [end recording]

Altay Council Says Decree 'Anti-Constitutional'

LD1510214793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1901 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] On Thursday evening the Altay Territorial Council reconfirmed its previous resolution to recognize the presidential decree No. 1400 as anti-constitutional. At the same time it abolished decision which supported resolutions of Russia's former Supreme Soviet on transfer of presidential authorities to Aleksandr Rutskoy.

Deputies also spoke in favor of simultaneous elections of representative power bodies in the territory and head of the administration. It was decided that the territorial council, its minor committees and commissions will

continue functioning until the formation of new representative power bodies. The resolution says that all efforts of these bodies are to be focused on the fulfillment of the Constitution, laws of the Russian Federation and preparations for the elections.

Buryatian Leader Urges Clear Stand on Reform

MK1510155093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 3

[Boir Borboyev report under the "Buryatia" rubric: "Resisting Reforms Makes No Sense, Head of Government Warns Colleagues"]

[Text] In his 10-minute statement at the session of the Buryatian parliament, which opened yesterday, the head of government pointed to the need for taking a clearer stance on President Boris Yeltsin's initiatives on reforming state authority bodies in the republics that are part of the Federation: "Presently, we live in a different country with a different political situation, which requires new approaches and new decisions. They should be prepared and adopted by the Buryatian parliament in the near future." The head of government noted that the Supreme Soviet should work for another two to three months to draw up laws on elections, and to make amendments to the republic's Constitution. In the view of Buryatian Prime Minister Vladimir Saganov, a state commission formed on a parity basis from among people's deputies, lawyers, economists, representatives of social-political parties and movements should deal with preparing a package of the requisite documents. "A real process of reforming the bodies of the republic's state authority has begun. Resisting it, as the members of the Buryatian parliament's presidium are trying to, makes no sense," the head of government said. Apparently, the Supreme Soviet Presidium is becoming the odd man out in the political showdown between Buryatia's two branches of power. The Council of Ministers decree issued on the eve of the session halted its activity. Members of the government also expressed their no-confidence in Parliament Speaker Vladimir Potapov and suggested that the Supreme Soviet relieve the chief of parliament of his job. Potapov himself, addressing the session, spoke out for the parliament's surrendering its powers before the end of its term. He believes, however, that elections should be held not later than April 1994. The speaker also emphasized that the incumbent authorities should continue to perform their functions. A draft decree distributed by the Buryatian parliament's press service points to the need for preparing within two months draft documents on making amendments and additions to the Constitution of the Republic of Buryatia in connection with the reform of government authorities, and a number of other documents, particularly, on the new executive and legislative authorities, on elections to government authorities in cities, rayons, settlements, and villages of the republic, and also on official guarantees for people's deputies and staffers of the soviets subject to reform.

To all appearances, the deputies will accept the speaker's viewpoint on holding early elections and also agree upon the deadline for drawing up the documents. According to observers, the provision of the decree on conducting a referendum in the republic on the need to introduce the presidency in Buryatia on the day of the elections to the Federal Assembly's State Duma will also be approved. Bills on elections and on the Buryatian presidency were passed more than a year ago.

Kabardino-Balkaria President Supports Yeltsin's Edict

MK1510134093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 3

[Igor Terekhov report in the "Kabardino-Balkaria" column: "Both Power Branches Are for Reforms. But Each Envisions Them in Its Own Way"]

[Excerpt] Speaking at a press conference in Nalchik on 13 October, Kabardino-Balkar Republic [KBR] President Valeriy Kokov once again expressed his support for the Russian Federation president's Edict 1400. According to him, his edict proposes a "way out of the protracted political crisis in the Russian Federation resulting from confrontation between the two power branches in Russia." The KBR president described the events on 3 and 4 October in Moscow as an attempt at an armed seizure of power by the opposition. He gave credit to the federal and executive authorities for managing to preserve peace in the Russian Federation and suspend the development of destructive processes in the regions.

Valeriy Kokov considers accelerating the reform of the political system the main task for the republic's authorities. According to him, the only way of resolving the emerging confrontation between the executive and the representative branches in the KBR lies through early elections to local soviets accompanied by their mandatory transformation which would allow them to fit into the new structure of the representative power branch in Russia. He ruled out the use of forceful methods with respect to the soviets on his part.

Responding to a question from NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA about his attitude to elections to the Federation Council, Valeriy Kokov pointed to certain advantages of this decision: for instance, the possibility to nominate the most worthy representatives from the Federation components. At the same time, he thinks it necessary to preserve the Council of Heads of the Republics under the president as an advisory body. This, in Kokov's opinion, will allow a more effective regional as well as federal policy to be pursued.

The KBR president noted that from each thousand rubles received by KBR citizens, 780 come from the federal budget. This fact largely determines the republic's relations with Moscow. [passage omitted]

Chechens Urge Khasbulatov's Release

MK1610130193 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 3

[Natalya Pachegina report under the "Chechen Republic" rubric: "'Khasbulatov's Captivity Threatens Russia With New Upheavals. Groznyy Indignant at Moscow Authorities' Hunt for Chechens"]

[Excerpts] What local authorities describe as scanty rallies of Ruslan Khasbulatov's sympathizers on 14 October, which are continuing into a second week, have forced President Dudayev to make a televised address to the citizens of Chechnya. Speaking in the same telecast with the president were the famous prisoner's relatives, whose speeches, unlike Dudayev's, boiled down to an appeal to stay calm and keep self-control. The president, however, expressed his concern over the situation in Russia. In the view of the Chechen president, the longer Khasbulatov, who is seen by Dudayev as least responsible for the Moscow events if compared with others, remains in prison, the greater complications for Russia's integrity this entails. Dudayev also implied that both camps of Russian politicians turned out to be hostage to special services, whose activity was evident in other "hot spots" of the country, and presently manifested itself in Moscow.

Yesterday, demonstrators on Freedom Square in Groznyy, surrounded by a number of fire engines, decided to halt the rally, giving afterward their consent to talks between their organizing committee and the authorities. The latter assured the people on the square that they would set up a committee for Khasbulatov's release. Unofficial sources, describing the actions in support of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet chairman, said to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA that it was planned to set up such committees in all regions of Russia, without limiting them to Ruslan Imranovich's "historical home country." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, a delegation from Moscow headed by Kim Tsagolov, representative of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Affairs of the Federation and Nationalities, and authorized representatives of Nikolay Ryabov, chairman of the Central Electoral Commission, visited Groznyy on 14 October. According to reports received by NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA, their meeting with President Dudayev focused on Chechnya's participation in the elections to the Russian State Duma. All attempts by Russian emissaries "to bring Chechnya back to Russia's lap" yielded no results, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA managed to find out. "The Chechen Republic made its choice in 1991," the president responded. [passage omitted]

Bashkortostan Protests Naming of Yeltsin Representative

LD1810120593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1027 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By Sergey Fufayev for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Ufa, 18 Oct—The Bashkortostan leadership has said that the appointment of a presidential representative in the republic "could lead to inter-ethnic clashes and would hinder elections and the progress of the constitutional reform in the republic."

The statement from the press service of the Presidium of Bashkortostan's Supreme Soviet, made in connection with the intention of the Russian president's administration to appoint a representative in the republic, was released today. It says the republic's leadership "categorically objects to any such appointment."

Chernomyrdin Continues Tour of Astrakhan

LD1510134293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1201 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin says the question of tax payment into the federal budget by Bashkortostan and Tatarstan has now been resolved. In an interview with Interfax, he spoke of being opposed to overblowing the question of payment or non-payment of taxes by the Russian regions.

The Prime Minister said that discipline was the main thing. He added that defaults were caused by the hardships affecting the regions.

He and Kazakh Prime Minister Sergey Tereshenko visited a gas complex and were shown around housing construction sites in the Astrakhan region.

The two men had also discussed the possibility of refining crude oil from Kazakhstan's Tengiz oil fields at regional oil refineries whose equipment, according to Chernomyrdin, is more advanced than elsewhere.

Groznyy Returns to Normal After 'Terrorists' Attack

LD1610144993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1351 GMT 16 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy October 16 TASS—The situation in the Chechen capital Groznyy where power plants were put out of order by unidentified terrorists on Friday, is coming back to normal on Saturday.

ITAR-TASS learnt from Grozenergo Amalgamation Manager Nurdi Usamov that, "as a result of efficient actions by local power engineers supported by their colleagues, virtually the entire city of Groznyy has been supplied with electricity and water by this noon."

Bakeries and other important enterprises for the city began operating. Normal operation of industrial enterprises will be fully restored in the next few days.

The main power supply centres in Groznyy were put out of order by fire from grenade launchers on the night between October 14 and 15. Chechen law enforcement bodies started an investigation.

Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev who spoke on local television last night called on the Chechen population to be calm and promised that the masterminds of the terrorist acts would be certainly hunted down and punished.

Groznyy Under Curfew

LD1710221893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] A curfew is in operation in Chechnya, following the sabotage of an electricity substation in Groznyy, during the night of the 14-15 October. Sergey Kurtov, chief engineer of Grozenergo [Groznyy Power Grid], told a CHECHENPRESS correspondent that the attack put the 35 and 110 kilowatt electricity supply system almost completely out of action. The operating and reserve substations supplying the television station cannot be repaired, and the value of the 22 transformers that were blown up is estimated at 10 billion rubles. All this, the engineer believes, indicates that a power engineering specialist well-acquainted with the weak points of the power system was involved in the sabotage.

Fighting Breaks Out in North Ossetia 16 Oct

LD1710174993 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1040 GMT 17 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 17 Oct—Blood has again been shed in the emergency zone on the territory of North Ossetia. On 16 October, for instance, at 2020 hours, near the village of Nizhniy Lars, situated on the Georgian Military Highway, a customs post came under automatic fire from several points of a wooded area on the right bank of the Terek River, from neighboring Ingushetia.

The customs officials returned the fire, to silence the firing positions of the attackers. During the exchange of fire Militia Sergeant Major Viktor Koshelev and Militia Sergeant Vitaliy Bosikov were killed. Lieutenant Ruslan Alebegov, chief of the customs group militia, Militia Sergeant Ruslan Kulayev, and militiaman Taymuraz Khabayev were wounded. To supervise the operational activities, Major General Georgiy Kantemirov, the minister of internal affairs of North Ossetia, went to the scene along with his deputies and North Ossetian militia subunits. A mobile group of the Russian Army forces attached to the provisional administration was sent to Nizhniy Lars to provide assistance.

According to military sources, last night there was occasional automatic fire in a number of population centers of the republic. There were no civilian casualties.

Governor Views Maritime Region Political Situation

LD1610145493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1345 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] The situation can turn for the worse any moment in the Maritime Region. Governor Evgeniy Nazdratenko told newsmen in Vladivostok Friday night that the prime task was to prevent what occurred in Moscow from happening in his region.

He emphasized that his administration had done all it could to keep political stability in the region during the tragedy in Moscow. Although he supported elections to the Federal Assembly, he voiced the view that Soviets should remain as governing councils but comprise up to 20 members each. He also spoke in favour of gubernatorial elections as in U.S.

Nazdratenko emphatically refuted the charges addressed to senior administrators for urging the Regional Council Chairman Dmitriy Grigorovich to convene a session, where the Maritime Region be declared a republic and he be proclaimed its president. "I have always advocated the unity of Russia," he said.

Maritime Territory To Control Arrival of Foreigners

LD1610172993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1509 GMT 16 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yevgeniya Lents]

[Text] Vladivostok October 16 TASS—From now on all foreigners to come to the Maritime territory will have to register at a police station within three days and produce an entrance visa or an invitation.

Licenses on organization of international tourism and the use of foreign labor force will be issued only to firms that will carry full responsibility for their guests while in the Maritime territory.

The Territorial Justice department was instructed to consider the lawfulness of sales to foreigners of housing and other types of property. If the department decides against it, several hundreds of Chinese and Korean businessmen will be deprived of apartments they bought in Vladivostok, Ussuriisk and other towns of the territory.

New Newspaper Begins Operations in St. Petersburg

LD1510132593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1207 GMT 15 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yelena Severova]

[Text] St. Petersburg October 15 TASS—The first issue of the newspaper SERBIA has been published by the Russian Committee for the Defence of Serbia and Montenegro in St. Petersburg.

Serbia is the only orthodox Christian country in West Europe. The editorial of the first issue of the new periodical says Russia asked the Balkans from the Turkish yoke under Tsar Aleksandr the Second, Russian diplomats, doctors and volunteers helped their orthodox brethren to get rid of the Austria-Hungarian domination under Tsar Nicholas the Second.

Now, when blood is again flowing in the Balkans, the newspaper SERBIA—the only publication of this sort in Russia—plans to make it clear to the world that Russians are not indifferent to the distress which befell their Slav brethren.

Mordovian Democrats Urge Yeltsin To Dismiss Medvedev

LD1610172693 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1345 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] In a message to President Yeltsin, leaders of the Mordovian branches of the "Democratic Russia" Movement, the Democratic Party and People's Labour Union urge him to dismiss Nikolay Medvedev as Chief of the Department on Work with Territories at the Presidential Administration.

In their opinion, Medvedev, nominated to parliament from Saransk, Mordovia's capital, is "a politician without principle, who has repeatedly changed his views depending on the political situation in Russia." They claim that even a few months ago Medvedev "said that the RF [Russian Federation] President was unable to run the country and government of Russia."

If Medvedev is not removed from office, we "cannot guarantee support for presidential candidates from Mordovian democrats", the address says.

Official Urges Expulsion of Local Council Representatives

LD1710145393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] The Omsk Region does not intend to leave the "Siberian Accord" Association, the head of the administration of the Omsk Region Leonid Polezhayev has told a correspondent of the Novosibirsk-based newspaper "SIBIRSKAYA GAZETA". He admitted, however, that representatives of the local councils must be expelled from the Association.

Leonid Polezhayev says that chairmen of the local councils attempted to involve the "Siberian Accord" into political gambling by saying that the association was the founder of the self-proclaimed Siberian republic.

He said that the "Siberian Accord" must deal solely with economic problems of Siberia. The Association should be governed by a professional executive body headed by the director whose appointment should be agreed upon with territories. The regional leaders should take part in it solely as observers.

Irkutsk Official Urges 'Interregional Integration'

PM1510142393 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 2

[Article by Irkutsk Oblast Administration Head Yuriy Nozhikov: "Irkutsk Oblast Administration Head Yuriy Nozhikov Proposes Creation of an Alliance of 15 Major Russian Oblasts and Krays"]

[Text] Despite the complexity of the situation in the country, the need to activate the adoption of effective economic decisions is obvious.

For the sake of objectivity it should be noted that the incomplete nature of the information coming from the center and the provinces does not help organs of management at all levels to adopt the necessary decisions for the good of strengthening the state. Thus, in front of their voters and labor collectives, organs of state management are virtually finding themselves incapable of taking the changes in the situation into account in good time or adopting adequate and definitive responsible decisions.

The Russian Government, which finds itself under extremely difficult conditions, is once again faced with allocating new state credits and granting loans which are hardly capable of substantially altering the state of affairs in industry, agriculture, transportation, and other spheres of the national economy.

It seems that economic stabilization—even partial, albeit rapid stabilization—is achievable, as a minimum, by using the financial and material assets due to come into the Russian treasury through the clearance of the entire debt or part of the debt of, for example, India, a number of Arab countries, and other partners of the former Soviet Union for the regions' specific economic and social programs in the form of modernizing state and joint-stock enterprises, renewing and developing the housing stock and medical and health establishments, and developing the infrastructure. The use of Indian construction potential as a way of clearing its debt to Russia could enable a number of regions and oblasts of Russia to resolve the housing problem quite painlessly and, primarily, to provide housing for servicemen and those being transferred to the reserve as a consequence of reducing Russia's Armed Forces. In our opinion, such an approach to changing the present situation for the better does not conflict with the Russian Government's financial-credit and other measures at the international and internal state levels. The Irkutsk Oblast Administration suggests to the Russian Government and, primarily, to the administration heads of Maritime Kray, Chita, Krasnoyarsk, Tyumen, Nizhniy Novgorod, Voronezh, Krasnodar, Arkhangelsk, Murmansk, Kaliningrad, Vladimir,

Ryazan, Moscow, and St. Petersburg that they pool efforts without delay for the purpose of normalizing the functioning of transport arteries and information flows and reinstating lost mutually advantageous, collaborative scientific and production ties.

The advantage of such phased interregional integration will be obvious—as a result of these urgent measures Russia will act as an integrated economic system, as a stable and reliable partner seeking to be integrated in a civilized system of world economic ties. The world community expects this of us, and our people expect it of us.

No clashes prevented us from holding the Irkutsk International Fair, in which more than 300 firms and enterprises from Russia, America, Europe, Asia, and the Near East have already participated. This is still not the limit, however. Without a doubt, ties will expand and strengthen for the good of our state. This can and must be promoted by an alliance of 15 of Russia's major krays and oblasts.

International Affairs

'No Results' at Talks With Russia on Black Sea Fleet

LD1810105593 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0705 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Simferopol, 17 Oct—Borys Samsonov, chairman of Crimea's Council of Ministers, who was part of the Ukrainian delegation at the Russo-Ukrainian negotiations on the status of the Black Sea Fleet, said the two rounds of negotiations produced no results.

Political Leaders Assess Moscow Events

WS1810093093 Kiev KIEVSKIE VEDOMOSTI in Ukrainian 7 Oct 93 p 3

[Interview with Oleksandr Moroz, leader of the Socialist Party of Ukraine; Valeriy Meshcheryakov, a leader of the Civil Congress of Ukraine; and Stepan Khmara, leader of the Ukrainian Conservative Republican Party; by Lyudmila Vasyleva; place and date not given—first four paragraphs are introduction]

[Text] Having won the battle, Yeltsin's team started to persecute the opposition.

The newspapers PRAVDA, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, DEN and others ceased to exist. The legislative body was also annulled. Current authorities in Russia are not going to deal with the legislative process until December elections.

General Prosecutor Stepankov has been quickly overthrown. Yeltsin can nominate his people to all the high places.

The primitive pursuit of the undesirable political opponents by the winners tends to put the future dictatorship on a legal footing. I would like to be mistaken. However, can Yeltsin control the situation or do the events develop according to someone else's scenario in which the president is only a screen? Who will become the next president? So, let us listen to different viewpoints on the situation in Russia.

[Moroz] Moscow events are tragic, and those who had driven the situation to this point cannot be justified. We are just witnessing the beginning of the tragedy. Its reason stems from the way the reforms were conducted, from the economic policy that dissatisfied the majority of people. However, the people have not yet begun to see clearly, society has not yet defined its position, the working collectives have not yet said their last word. The Moscow conflict has been caused by Yeltsin's anticonstitutional decision to overthrow the legislature. In my opinion, this was a state coup d'etat. Even Moscow journalists who cannot be suspected of a lack of sympathy for Yeltsin are in a dubious mood as to the assessment of the situation.

[Vasyleva] Therefore, a legal president has implemented a coup d'etat....

[Moroz] Anyway, the legislature was also legitimate. Our politicians should not applaud the winners and rejoice at the defeat of the opposition. Nobody knows who has won. Anyway, the people have lost. Democracy that has confirmed its position with the help of tanks and firing at the legislature is not a democracy but a dictatorship.

[Vaslyleva] Yeltsin's policy of reforms has been shaken, so his opponents took over the situation. If we can admit that he has won, do you think that he is going to continue his reforms tomorrow?

[Moroz] In fact, his policy has collapsed. Yeltsin must resign, he belongs to the past. The blood that was shed cannot be washed off his consciousness. I could analyze Russian reforms both in production and the banking business in detail, however, we do not require it. A small group of people are robbing the national valuables of Russia. As for Ukraine, the process of reforms here is going slower because we can clearly see the source of robbing, and the scale of robbery is smaller. This process leads to our crazy wages and prices. Only a referendum could define the direction.

[Vasyleva] In addition to the choice of direction of development, we have one more conflict—presidential power has become a new form of state management.

[Moroz] I agree with you. However, this conflict has been muffled by contradictions between the Cabinet of Ministers and the president. In my opinion, the institute of presidency has fulfilled its main function—annulment of the USSR—and Ukraine does not require a president. We could have an ordinary parliamentary state.

[Meshcheryakov] The Civil Congress of Ukraine [HKU] has not yet pronounced any official statement: First, we do not want to use the Moscow tragedy for our political aims; second, we have no information at all. We do not believe Russian radio and television: Radio SVOBODA is more objective.

[Vasyleva] What about Yeltsin's political future?

[Meshcheryakov] I do not see any winners in this situation. Yeltsin is both a winner and a loser. By the way, he started to lose a long ago. On 21 September, he crashed the Constitution, later, he used the Army. Therefore, not only Rutskoy's and Khazbulatov's hands are wet with blood. Yeltsin's team also has hands stained with blood. Russia will never forgive them this blood. Yeltsin is trying to do everything to delay elections in order to win them by destroying his opponents. The opposition parties, movements, and newspapers have been banned.

Russian democracy has not won. It is going through a split and Yeltsin's team fosters this process.

[Vasyleva] The entire world, including Ukraine, have officially supported the words "Russian democracy has won." Are they deceiving themselves?

[Meshcheryakov] What do you mean by saying "the entire world"? The support of Clinton and some of the other presidents does not mean the support of the entire world.

[Vasyleva] But it shows the distribution of forces in the world.

[Meshcheryakov] In my mind, the right-oriented Western community is really anxious about all this. On the other hand, this is really a self-deception. Is Yeltsin better than Pinochet or any other Latin American dictator? Human rights have been violated.

[Vasyleva] Can Russian events affect Ukraine? If yes, then will the position of our president be strengthen, or, will some Ukrainian parties just be banned?

[Meshcheryakov] Our nationalists have already started to use the situation in their interests. However, they are quiet about the fact that Russian radical nationalists were the most active force in the putsch. Both Ukrainian and Russian nationalists are chauvinists, but the Ukrainians outnumber the Russians in Ukraine. However, I have drawn the following lessons from these events:

1. All illegal semimilitary formations irrespective of their political coloring should be banned;

2. The new constitution should be devoid of pronouncements that could lead to a confrontation between the two powers.

In addition, I have become a strong supporter of a parliamentary republic. Currently, Ukraine has got a chance to hold new elections that should be won by the centrist forces.

[Khmara] As long as the Russian empire exists, as long as Russia stations its troops on the territories of the erstwhile USSR republics and organizes so-called regional conflicts there, it is impossible to speak about any democracy in Russia.

We do not support any of the fighting parties in Moscow. Only blind men can support one or the other party. Such support contradicts our national interests. However, giving a judicial assessment of the Moscow events, I can state that Yeltsin has violated the Constitution.

I am more interested in learning the reaction of Ukrainian politicians about this event. Some of them want to do away with their opposition in Ukraine. Kravchuk's speech on television has demonstrated this trend. He would like to fight against the national-patriotic forces and simultaneously flirt with the communist forces. I understand him—he is a representative of the most reactionary wing of the party nomenclature that has always been conducting terrorist acts in Ukraine. Kravchuk is currently legalizing the Mafia. He would like to muzzle Ukraine in order to silence everyone who, for example, opposes his policy of robbing Ukraine. I am speaking about Kravchuk because he represents the executive power and has the widest authorities.

[Vasyleva] Such accusations are common among the deputies. In my mind, the Prosecutor's Office and the court bodies should announce them.

[Khmara] In my opinion, our Prosecutor's Office is inert. I have written many letters to deputies addressing this issue but have only received humiliating formal replies.

If currently we do not mobilize the population to fight against the Mafia which is the main threat to the state, we are going to suffer dire times.

[Vasyleva] What layers of population are you planning to mobilize?

[Khmara] The ordinary people. We cannot rely on the central and local authorities because they are corrupt.

[Vasyleva] Will you perform your "people's court" legally?

[Khmara] We have no other way. We must awaken our people.

[Vasyleva] However, in Russia, there have already been attempts to raise people and you can see the results.

[Khmara] You cannot draw analogies. First, who has called on the people? For what reason? Second, Russia is an empire, while Ukraine is a young state. These things are incomparable.

[Vasyleva] I only wanted to say that you should be more careful with such appeals....

[Khmara] You know, the Mafia is in power and if you say that we should be more careful with our people this means that we are again going to have our citizens become slaves.

Zlenko Rejects Russian Peacemakers in Former USSR

LD1510122293 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0817 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Kiev, [no date as received]—As a UNIAN correspondent learned on 14 October, Boris Yeltsin's idea of carrying out peacemaking actions in the "hot spots" of the former union has up until now, not met with support at the United Nations. According to information from members of the Ukrainian delegation, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev proposed at the 48th session of the UN General Assembly that peace-keeping operations by Russia be given special status. The American side treated this proposal with restraint, stressing the danger of allotting spheres of influence in the world.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko called Russia's stance on regulating armed conflicts "unacceptable to Ukraine" at a news conference for journalists. In an exclusive interview for UNIAN correspondents, Oleksandr Skypalskyy, head of the Union of Officers of Ukraine, commented on the situation: "The presence in

"hot spots" of military units from Russia and other states, which have signed a joint military agreement within the framework of the CIS, from the point of view of international law could be described as interference in the internal affairs of Tajikistan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and so on. If every state is going to be setting up its own peacemaking forces outside the framework of the United Nations, then this will be dangerous, both for the prestige of the United Nations itself and for the general security of neighboring states. Every peacemaking mission should be carried out only in accordance with decisions by the UN Security Council, and Russia should not be any exception."

Ambassador to U.S. on Aid Agreement, Christopher Visit

LD1510171293 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0817 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Washington—William Miller, U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, commenting to an UNIAN correspondent in Washington on the visit to Ukraine in the near future by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, expressed the hope that a bilateral agreement would be concluded in the course of the month that will demonstrate the beginning of a "new American policy regarding Ukraine." Oleg Bilorus, Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, confirmed that the "charter of friendship, cooperation and partnership," which is being prepared for signing at the highest level, will be of a strategic nature. According to him, the arrival of Warren Christopher in Kiev will demonstrate the extension of the range of bilateral relations: "Economic cooperation, in which not only Ukraine is interested, is being advanced onto the agenda side by side with issues of general political security." As well as the "charter", aspects of signing a so-called "framework agreement" will be worked out during the visit by the U.S. secretary of state.

In accordance with this, Washington will give Kiev financial assistance worth $175 million for nuclear disarmament, with a subsequent increase in these funds. The U.S. Congress, as is well-known, has adopted a law in accordance with which Ukraine has been included with the countries that will be receiving direct economic assistance on a long-term basis. The United States is planning to give Ukraine at least $300 million for 1994 alone. However, this in no way means, Oleg Bilorus is convinced, that "Ukraine will start on the path of international economic parasitism." Other documents are also being prepared for signing, in particular on international security and cooperation in the military political sphere. Warren Christopher, in the opinion of Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, will agree a final date for the visit by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk to Washington at the end of November and possibly for a trip by Bill Clinton to Ukraine, roughly at the beginning of 1994.

Black Sea Fleet Questioned About Oil Spill

LD1610195893 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0945 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Sevastopol—UNIAN correspondents continue to report on the environmental disaster that occurred on the night of 9-10 October in the Sevastopol harbor when close to 60 tonnes of oil products spilled into the sea, contaminating approximately 230,000 square meters of the water surface. Four special services are involved in the clean-up operation.

The Ministry of Environment State Inspection for the Protection of the Black Sea called on the Black Sea Fleet commanders either to confirm or deny the results of a preliminary investigation, which found that the crude oil was spilled in the harbor by the anti- submarine boat Moskva, as well as to assist the investigation. The State Inspection was informed that a Black Sea fuel service officer found no crude oil missing on the Moskva. A violation of environmental safety on the boat—pressure-testing of the fuel tank—was not denied.

According to Larysa Barabash, deputy head of the State Inspection for the Protection of the Black Sea, it was impossible to obtain the necessary information for an independent inquiry, as "the Black Sea Fleet commanders were hiding the data on water pollution in their files." It is also known that none of the Black Sea fleet ship formations began cleaning up the waters until the state inspection appealed to the fleet commander. Preliminary estimates put the losses at 180 million karbovantsi. This is one of the biggest environmental disasters in the Black Sea in the past few years.

Cabinet Acts To Improve Trade With Ex-USSR States

LD1610185593 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 1357 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] In order to encourage more effective foreign economic activity, and increase the country's export potential, Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers has approved a respective resolution. It outlines measures to enhance the efficiency of mutual deliveries on interstate agreements on trade and economic cooperation between Ukraine and the republics of the former USSR. In particular, the State Committee for Material Supplies and the Economy Ministry, in association with interested ministries and departments, have been instructed to take measures to carry out deliveries of products and commodities in 1993, as envisaged in these interstate agreements.

The Foreign Economic Relations Ministry must speed up the work on foreign economic relations strategy toward the republics of the former USSR, the Economy Ministry must ensure a mechanism for the implementation of interstate agreements and price policy formation, and the Finance Ministry, in association with the National Bank and authorized commercial banks, must work out a mechanism for mutual payments.

A permanent commission will be set up at the Economy Ministry to deal with the cost evaluation of products delivered on an equitable [barter] basis to the republics of the former USSR.

The State Committee for Material Supplies, together with the Economy Ministry, must work with the Russian Federation Economy Ministry and Roskontrakt [as received] on an urgent price revision in accordance with world prices and the volume of deliveries determined by the agreement on the procedure for reciprocal deliveries of staple products on a clearing or equitable [barter] basis between the Russian Federation and Ukraine in 1993. Proposals must be drafted within a month with regard to the list of products, the prices and the volume of deliveries in accordance with the interstate agreements between Ukraine and the former USSR republics for 1994, including those based on clearing, with reference to the material balance between manufacturing and consumption.

In the process of drafting proposals for the import of products, it is necessary to take the fullest possible account of the available production capacities and the capabilities of Ukraine's economic potential in order to protect the domestic market and increase the share of exports.

A strict mechanism will be worked out for the implementation of interstate agreements for 1994, envisaging mutual payment terms, the simplification of border crossing for cargoes, and state guarantors responsible for deliveries and mutual payments.

Ministries and departments must speed up work on setting up joint international complexes for oil and gas extraction, refining and shipment, and extraction and processing of nonferrous metals, cotton, and other types of products necessary to ensure the steady functioning of Ukraine's economy.

[Signed] Press service of the president and Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine—UKRINFORM

Syrian Governmental Delegation Holds Taiks in Kiev

AU1510200493 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 14 Oct 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "A Meeting With a Syrian Delegation"]

[Text] On 12 October, Ukraine's first deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mykola Makarevych, received a governmental delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic headed by Minister of Irrigation 'Abd-al-Rahman Matani.

During the meeting, questions of bilateral relations were discussed.

National Affairs

Cabinet of Ministers Approves Budget for 1994

LD1510132293 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0918 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Kiev, 14 Oct—A sitting of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has taken place under the chairmanship of Yukhum Zvyahilskyy, acting prime minister of Ukraine. Issues connected with state regulation of the economy for 1994 were examined. In particular concepts of the plan for economic and social development and the state budget of Ukraine for next year were approved. State priorities were determined, among which are the development of the agroindustrial and fuel and power complexes, the resolution of economic problems, the elimination of the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster and social protection for citizens who have suffered because of the accident, structural reconstruction of the economy, and so on. The presidium approved draft decrees of the president of Ukraine and government resolutions on the issues discussed.

Government To Ask Supreme Soviet Not To Close Chernobyl

LD1610210393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] The Ukrainian Government intends to ask the republic's Supreme Soviet to temporarily rescind its resolution to put the Chernobyl nuclear power station out of operation. Ukraine's Ecology Minister Yuriy Kostenko told INTERFAX that this decision was taken at a government meeting on Friday [15 October]. The meeting studied prospects for developing nuclear power engineering in the republic. In particular, it once again raised the question of completing the construction of power generating units in Khmelnitskiy, Rovno, and Zaporozhye nuclear power stations.

In the summer, the government had already asked the Supreme Soviet to rescind the earlier imposed moratorium on putting into operation a number of power generating units at these stations; however, the request was not met.

Cabinet Holds Meeting on Nuclear Power Engineering

LD1610084893 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0800 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] On 15 October, a conference on issues of developing nuclear power engineering and industry was held at the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers. President Leonid Kravchuk, Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch, and acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy took part. A complex of issues on current production and socio-economic needs of the industry as well as prospects for its development up to the year 2010 were considered.

Kiev To Issue State Bonds To Attract Foreign Investment

AU1510183293 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 14 Oct 93 p 3

["Ukrainian Presidential Edict on Issuing State Commodity Bonds of Ukraine's National Resources" issued in Kiev on 12 October

[Text] In order to attract the capital of foreign investors for modernizing industry, introducing advanced technologies, stabilizing the economy, increasing Ukraine's export potential, and ensuring state guarantees for the utilization of foreign investments, I resolve as follows:

1. To issue into circulation state commodity bonds of Ukraine's national resources.

2. Ukraine's Ministry of Finance must complete, within one month, organizational measures to ensure the issuing and circulation of state commodity bonds of Ukraine's national resources.

[Signed] Ukraine's President L. Kravchuk

[Dated] Kiev, 12 October 1993

New Defense Minister Tours Military Facilities

LD1710111293 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0100 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] As sources in Lvov reported on Saturday, Ukraine's newly appointed Defense Minister Colonel General Vitaliy Radetskyy has been touring national military facilities this week. First he visited Sevastopol, the disputed Black Sea Fleet main naval base, where he introduced Vice Admiral Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy, the newly- appointed navy commander, to the Ukrainian Navy officers. Then he went to Lvov to supervise a command post exercise in the Transcarpathian Military Region.

During his meeting with journalists in Lvov, Col. Gen. Radetskyy said that he would like to meet with his Russian counterpart, Army General Pavel Grachev, who incidentally was among the first foreign officials to congratulate Radetskyy on his appointment. Col. Gen. Radetskyy is quoted as saying that the two states' defense ministers should meet to discuss some controversial issues involving nuclear weapons and the Black Sea Fleet.

Radetskyy Discusses Deployments With Crimean Leader

LD1610123193 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0930 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Simferopol, 15 October—According to a report from the press center of the Crimean Supreme Council, Mykola Bahrov, chairman of the Supreme Council had a meeting with Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy and Volodymyr Bezkorovaynyy, commander of Ukraine's Naval Forces, on the eve of the last sitting of the 14th regular session of the Crimean Supreme Council.

During the conversation, the commander of the Naval Forces and the defense minister assured the chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council that provisions regarding redeployment of military technology and military subunits will be carried out with the knowledge of the leadership of the Crimean Supreme Council.

Crimea Allocates National Seats for Tartars, Others

WS1510155993 Lvov POST-POSTUP in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 14 Oct 93 p

[Text] On 14 October, the Crimean Supreme Council adopted a new electoral law that introduces, for one term, a quota of 14 national seats for Crimean Tartars and one seat each for Armenians, Bulgarians, Greeks, and other nations once deported from Crimea.

Ethnic Russian Leader Opposes Crimean Tartar Quotas

WS1510130993 Lvov POST-POSTUP in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] A meeting between representatives of Crimean Tartar organizations and deputies of the Crimean Supreme Council was held in Sevastopol on 12 October. The negotiators adopted a joint resolution to support the proposal by the Crimean Tartars National Assembly and the Crimean Supreme Council Special Committee to assign an unspecified number of seats in the legislature for Crimean Tartars.

Oleksandr Kruhlov, head of the Russian People's Council of Sevastopol, has decisively opposed the resolution, and called the Tartar demands "excessive." He has promised that if those demands are fulfilled, Russians will demand that their own national electoral districts be established.

Anticorruption Official on Power Abuses, Deputies' Immunity

WS1510143293 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 8 Oct 93 p 2

[Interview with Colonel Hryhoriy Omelchenko, chief of the Army Department of Counterintelligence for Combating Corruption and Organized Crime Within the Ukrainian Security Service, by RUKH-PRESS correspondent Oleh Maystrenko; place and date not given—first paragraph is KHRESHCHATYK introduction]

[Text] **A decision by the Office of Ukraine's Attorney General to press criminal charges of power abuse and legal violations against Ukrainian People's Deputies Yuriy Haysynskyy and Volodymyr Tolubko has disturbed all the deputies. However, in an interview with a RUKH-PRESS correspondent, Colonel Hryhoriy Omelchenko,**

chief of the Army Department of Counterintelligence for Combating Corruption and Organized Crime Within the Ukrainian Security Service, said that it is doubtful that they will ever appear in court...

[Maystrenko] Your department has made many efforts to investigate abuses of power by people's deputies and other members of Ukraine's ruling elite. Nevertheless, no case has ever been heard in a court of law. Will People's Deputies Yuriy Haysynskyy and Volodymyr Tolubko, against whom the Office of Attorney General has pressed criminal charges of power abuse and legal violations, appear in court?

[Omelchenko] I am afraid, they will not. According to a law adopted by the Supreme Council, to arrest or prosecute a people's deputy, the approval of two thirds of all deputies is required. First of all, I have never seen such a number of deputies at any Supreme Council session. Secondly, there is little chance of the people's deputies voting in favor of such a thing, since many of them also have a guilty conscience and they understand perfectly that they could follow Haysynskyy and Tolubko. For example, one of the charges pressed against Haysynskyy is that he used forged documents to acquire a luxury apartment in Kiev's so-called "Tsar Village." Apparently, most of the deputies have also received luxurious apartments in Kiev, on very dubious grounds. Moreover, most of them already had an apartment, some of them had even more then one. It is interesting that when it comes to privileges, there is an amazing unity among democrats, former communists, and other deputies. Additionally, many of the deputies, as well as former and present government officials, have committed much more serious sins. The purchases of large pieces of land by numerous servicemen raise many questions. A fear that they will be prosecuted is the main reason that deputies so fiercely oppose new elections. They follow the simple thinking—when they are in power, they are untouchable.

[Maystrenko] Is it possible that the Supreme Council will cancel the elections it scheduled for next spring?

[Omelchenko] I am afraid that the Supreme Council adopted the resolution on legislative and presidential elections merely to delay the opposition's general strike that had been scheduled for 28 September. I am not convinced that the nomenclature majority in the Supreme Council will keep its promises and not fool the people, as it fooled students in October 1990 and miners with the referendum. The nomenclature could block a new electoral law. It could simply sabotage the elections, as it did the referendum. Finally, in case of complete economic disaster followed by social turmoil, as well as an exacerbating situation in the Crimea or any other region, a state of emergency could be imposed and elections could be canceled. However, in this complex situation, the most important thing is to protect public security in Ukraine, which will in turn guarantee the safety of the Ukrainian state.

'Special-Purpose Unit' Holds Secret Training

AU1510200593 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 14 Oct 93 p 4

[Report by the "Intelekt" Agency: "A Forest Reserve for the Military"]

[Text] In conditions of utmost secrecy, a special-purpose military unit conducts training on the territory of a nature reserve complex in Kinburnska Spit (Nikolayev Oblast). Last year, during such top-secret games, 13 hectares of the forest reserve were burnt and earlier—five hectares.

In order to somehow find a solution, the oblast state administration held yet another round of negotiations with the command of the military unit and proposed that the time for holding the maneuvers be coordinated in advance.

However, the military leaders do not accept these conditions. They demand that the lands be assigned for them.

Poll on Kievans' Attitude on Nuclear Status, Russia

AU1510201493 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 14 Oct 93 p 4

[Article by Volodymyr Skachko: "To NATO—With Our Own Missiles?"]

[Text] It is, perhaps, that, like a person who, after he learns about other peoples' opinion of himself, must determine where he belongs, a state must occupy its position according to its own status and possibilities. Proceeding from the assumption that external policy is an extension of internal policy, the research and training center "Democratic Initiatives," jointly with the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences Sociology Institute, decided to find out, on 2 and 3 October 1993, how Kievans picture Ukraine's geopolitical status. This is what they learned: 6 percent of respondents were in favor of the unconditional proclamation of Ukraine's nuclear status; 27 percent endorsed the keeping of the nuclear weapons until international security guarantees are granted; 33 percent favored the nuclear status with a simultaneous initiative to seek total elimination of all nuclear weapons in the world; 6 percent did not care one way or the other; and only 22 percent were categorically opposed to retaining nuclear weapons in Ukraine.

In each case, 30 percent of respondents expressed their support for mutually incompatible variants of Ukraine's fate—(1) joining NATO independently of other countries and (2) achieving nonaligned and neutral status. The idea of Ukraine's joining NATO together with other CIS countries was supported by 17 percent; 9 percent of respondents were in favor of joining the CIS military alliance as an alternative to NATO, and 14 percent proposed other variants.

The Massandra [in the Crimea] protocols signed by Ukraine and Russia on the Black Sea Fleet and Sevastopol did not receive support of 46 percent of the respondents; 24 percent approved of them; 15 percent were not even aware that those protocols existed at all; and 15 percent could not give any definite assessment.

Nor do Kievans forget the historical grudge. When asked whether Russia, which has proclaimed itself as the only successor to the USSR, must compensate for Ukraine's losses due to the genocide (the artificially created famine) in 1932-33, just like the FRG is doing by paying Israel compensation for the genocide of Jews during World War II, 52 percent of respondents answered in the affirmative, 29 percent objected, and 6 percent stated that the problem did not concern them.

However, the demand for compensation from Russia does not mean that Russia no longer plays a certain spiritual role in the life of Kievans. Asked "Which television programs do you prefer for getting information on politics?" 42 percent opted for the Russian and Central State Television, 26 percent said that they prefer the Ukrainian State Television, yet another 23 percent receive information on politics from local television channels not owned by the state, while 14 percent are not interested in politics at all. By comparison with a similar poll on the printed mass media in June, the situation has not changed—Russian mass media prevail in the information area of Kiev.

In my opinion, the only shortcoming of this poll is the number of respondents: 400 Kievans altogether. However, they represented all social, age, professional, and educational-level strata of the population. In short, the poll could be broader, but something else could be done: Our own position could be determined on the basis of the questions [samovyznachytysya iz zaproponovanykh pytan]. Maybe, some day, somebody will ask....

'Pro-Democracy' Movements Form Election Alliance

LD1610211393 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] We have received a statement by political, public, and trade union organizations on their cooperation during the elections to the Supreme Council of Ukraine. It says, in particular:

We, leaders of political, public, and trade union pro-democracy organizations, state that our joint efforts were one of the factors causing the Supreme Council to pass the laws on early elections of a new, professional parliament and president of Ukraine. We are aware that the upcoming elections to the Supreme Council, due on 27 March 1994, will be of crucial significance in the history of our state. Despite the differences in the programs and statutory objectives of our organizations, we agree that an electoral victory of the pro-imperial and extreme left party alliance, based on the Communist platform, would pose the biggest threat to the reformation of the Ukrainian state into a democratic society which would ensure equal rights, social peace, concord, and people's welfare.

At the same time, we realize that under the conditions of mature political pluralism and the factual existence of different political forces, forming a single electoral bloc of democratic parties and organizations, with the nomination of a single candidate for the bloc in every electoral district, is infeasible today.

Proceeding from this premise, we agree on the following coordinated actions of our parties and organizations during the upcoming election campaign:

—Demanding that a new, democratic electoral law be passed, envisaging representation of different political forces in the parliament through the mechanism of proportional representation or a mixed electoral system;

—Taking active part in the forming of electoral commissions at all levels and providing independent observers at all polling stations during the elections;

—Aiming, through negotiation and coordination between the leaders of our organizations, for the nomination of a single candidate for some or all of the democratic movements in certain districts;

—In case an imperfect electoral law is passed, envisaging runoff elections, joining all efforts to support a candidate for one of the organizations which signed this statement, where the other candidate in the runoff represents the pro-Communist bloc;

—Leaders of public organizations whose members are affiliated with different political organizations—Prosvita, Memorial, the Political Prisoners and Repressed Persons Society, and others—in order to avoid a split in these public organizations, are advised against declaring their support for individual parties or small alliances at the Ukrainian-wide level, leaving the right of choice to individual members and grass root organizations.

The statement is open for signing to all political, public, and trade union pro-democracy organizations.

Opposition Forces Form 'United Bloc' for Elections

LD1710144193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Ukraine's opposition forces which involve parties, movements and other political and public organizations held a conference in Kiev on Saturday and decided to act as a united bloc at the early parliamentary elections scheduled for next March.

The conference gathered 19 parties which include the Ukrainian People's Rukh, the Republican Party, the

Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, the Students' Union. They declared that they will press for adopting a democratic bill on elections that would provide for a proportional or mixed election system.

The opposition parties will take an active part in forming electoral commissions on all levels and in securing independent observers for them.

The opposition forces, their spokesmen told the conference, will nominate candidates from the united opposition bloc, not from individual parties or movements.

If they fail to come to terms in the nomination of joint candidates, the opposition forces will campaign against candidates from the communist parties.

The leaders of public organizations whose members belong to different political associations, such as Prosvita, Memorial, Society of Political Prisoners and People Subjected to Repression, have been recommended that they refrain from supporting individual parties.

This decision was prompted by the circumstance that, according to recent sociological polls conducted by the independent research center Democratic Initiatives, no party will be able to collect more than 5 percent of the vote. Only 7.3 percent of the citizens willing to take part in the elections expressed confidence in them.

Communist Head: Lvov Militia Fought Against White House

WS1510131393 Lvov POST-POSTUP in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] At a news conference on 12 October, Petro Symonenko, leader of the Communist Party of Ukraine, reported that the Lvov Special Assignment Militia Detachment (it was renamed "Berkut" long ago) "participated in the fight against defenders of the White House in Moscow." Petro Symonenko insisted that he has witnesses to back up his claim.

Communist Party Protest 'Pro-Fascist Forces'

AU1510121493 Lviv ZA VILNU UKRAYINU in Ukrainian 8 Oct 93 p 1

[Statement by the Lvov Oblast Committee of Ukraine's Communist Party to the chairman of the Lvov Oblast Administration of Ukraine's Security Service; adopted in Lvov Oblast on 10 September]

[Text] The events that have recently been evolving in Lvov Oblast have caused serious alarm among communists and the overwhelming majority of the region's population. The nationalist and extremist forces have taken advantage of the failure to reach final accords on the questions of intensifying economic integration within the framework of the CIS and dividing the Black Sea Fleet and strategic weapons and the current objective differences for stirring up nationalist hysteria and for reprisals against their political opponents.

During aggressive rallies held at the initiative of Ukrainian presidential representatives in Lvov Oblast and the leadership of the Oblast Council of People's Deputies, calls to take up arms and use physical violence against representatives of national minorities residing in Ukraine and deport them sounded more than once. The speakers repeatedly called for a forced unconstitutional overthrow of the present state system and the creation of the so-called "committees for the salvation of the nation and state" that are not provided for by the laws of the state.

This attitude assumed by representatives of the official state power has provoked a whole series of illegal and criminal actions. For example, following the burning of the Russian state flag at the rally on Sunday, 5 September, and anti-Russian calls on the part of Ukraine's people's deputies I. Kalinets, S. Khmara, and others, acts of vandalism were committed during the night of 6-7 September: Windows were smashed in Russian schools Nos. 6, 9, 45, and 52 in Lvov, their doors were smeared with paint, and insulting slogans "Muscovites, get out of Ukraine!" were hoisted.

On the evening of 9 September, five militants attempted to break into the apartment of Ye. Talipov, chairman of the Lvov City Committee of Ukraine's Socialist Party. Talipov's family was subjected to unprecedented pressure and threats of physical annihilation. The family of I. Lutsyuk, leader of the oblast organization of Ukraine's Socialist Party, was also subjected to ruthless terror.

We express our decisive protest in connection with the activization of profascist forces and organizations in Lvov Oblast. We regard the aforementioned facts as a provocation that was planned in advance and carried out in order to provoke reciprocal actions on the part of extreme Russian chauvinist circles.

Proceeding from this, we demand that the crimes be investigated without delay and that the offenders be punished unconditionally.

We express no confidence in the leadership of the oblast, the procurator, and chiefs of administration of Ukraine's Security Service and Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs who have shown total personal inability to protect the constitutional rights of the citizens and manifested irresponsible neglect of their direct official duties.

For our part, we announce the creation of a public commission for the investigation of the aforementioned crimes. In cases of terrorist acts against representatives of the Alliance of Left-Wing Forces in Lvov Oblast or members of their families, we place the entire responsibility for the possible consequences upon you personally. If this statement is ignored, we reserve the right to turn to our supporters with a call to create units of self-defense. All facts of the activity of fascist nationalist groupings that are supported by the Lvov Oblast authorities will be brought to the attention of the public,

Ukraine's people's deputies at all levels, the CIS countries, and official representatives of foreign countries accredited in Ukraine.

The statement was adopted at the meeting of the oblast party aktiv on 10 September 1993.

On the behalf of the Lvov Oblast Committee of Ukraine's Communist Party,

O. Holub, first secretary of the Lvov Oblast Committee of Ukraine's Communist Party

Belarus

Official Previews Defense Minister's Visit to U.S.

LD1510133393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1201 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] The U.S. and Belarusian defense agencies will sign a memorandum on cooperation. Valeriy Pavlov, Belarussian First Deputy Secretary of State on crime combat and national security, told INTERFAX that Lieutenant General Pavel Kozlovskiy, Belarus' defense minister, will visit the U.S. for that purpose.

Pavlov said that a draft memorandum mentioned contacts in the military and military technology fields. He explained that Belarus will "seek U.S. aid in the disposal of the tens of thousands of tons of ammunition stored in Belarus."

The defense chiefs of the two states will discuss, Pavlov said, the setting up of regular contacts, the reform of the Belarusian armed forces, and changing of their structure and officers' training.

Responding to an INTERFAX question if purchases of weapons in the U.S. would be discussed, Pavlov said: "We have not and do not intend to raise this issue. What may be discussed are command systems."

Popular Front Urges Early Parliament Session

WS1510134393 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 7 Oct 93 p 1

[Report by S. Plytkevich: "Rough Talk"]

[Text] A meeting between Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich and representatives of the Belarusian Popular Front was devoted to the front's appeal demanding the speaker convene an extraordinary session of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet. Why does the opposition consider such a step necessary? Because, in their opinion, the situation that has developed in Belarus is identical to the one in September 1991. Certain organizations, deputies, parties, movements, and government officials have expressed their policy to destroy Belarus as an independent state. An extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet is necessary to adopt a resolution on early elections for supreme executive bodies of the Republic and to establish a coalition government.

Such activities aimed at the destruction of Belarusian statehood, carried by Vyacheslav Kebich, are backed by your passiveness—Zyanon Paznyak said frankly to Stanislav Shushkevich. The Cabinet of Ministers has created illegitimate structures, it approves resolutions that violate our laws, ignores the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and you are standing by! Day by day, you lose popular support and the ability to handle the situation in Belarus!

Stanislav Shushkevich categorically rejected such an appraisal of him and the government's activities. He stated that there is nothing easier to do than let the Supreme Soviet chairman do what should be done by the advocates of an extraordinary session. In his opinion, an extraordinary session would not be successful, since appropriate draft legislation and documents have not yet been prepared. What would happen would be yet another fruitless discussion.

Tomorrow will be too late!—said representatives of the opposition. In a week or so, our "Anpilovs" and "Khasbulatovs" will launch an attack, and you will be defenseless!

Show me evidence that it is possible to summon an extraordinary session, and that it will not be fruitless—responded Stanislav Shushkevich. Then, I will summon a session, but now...

But now, the opposition and the speaker cannot understand one another. Time will show who is right.

Popular Front Wants Resignation of Kebich Government

LD1510132193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1201 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Zyanon Paznyak, leader of the Belarusian Popular Front, called for the resignation of the Kebich government, whose policies "pose a threat to our sovereignty."

Paznyak told Interfax that a coalition government had to be formed. In his view, this "will be a provisional government which should within three to six months start market reforms and introduce a national currency system." He said it should also find ways to overcome the energy crisis and protect the nation's sovereignty.

Shushkevich Visits Mine; Production Cut 65%

PM1510141193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2100 GMT 14 Oct 93

[By Lyudmila Vilyuga and Sergey Gelbakh; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] Unfortunately no one knows how much salt the Soligorsk miners get through each day. What we do know on the other hand is that it took them 25 years to develop this 400,000 square meter underground city. In that period countless novices here at the Belaruskaliy Production Association have experienced first-hand the cost of a miner's labor. I think that Stanislav Shushkevich, leader of the Belarus parliament, who went down 500 meters to the mine face, will now also remember the taste of potassium salt for which miners are paid 300,000. Unfortunately, even the miners' fairly good pay cannot dispel their sense of anxiety: The likelihood of unemployment is too high, because Belaruskaliy, one of the world's biggest suppliers of potash and the association which once supplied 50 percent of the needs of the former Union republics and all of Belarus' needs, has now cut back production by 65 percent. Supplies have been maintained only to the West. The reason is the loss

of customers in Russia and Ukraine and, most important, here in Belarus. [passage omitted]

Internal Affairs Ministry Releases Data on Crime

WS1810091493 Minsk RID in Russian 1325 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Minsk—Nowadays in Belarus, crime draws everybody's attention. The statistics data prepared by the Belarusian Ministry of Internal Affairs speak volumes about it. In the first nine months of this year, over 74,000 felonies were committed (in comparison to the same period last year it means a 6.3 percent increase). The number of murders and attempted murders increased 41.7 percent, the number of severe bodily injuries—15.3 percent. The number of armed robberies has tripled. Over 3,500 burglaries have been committed during that period. Recidivism climbed 50 percent.

The numbers are appalling. The national program on combating crime that is being developed by the Belarus State Secretariat for Combating Crime and for National Security would be very much to the point.

Prosecutor General Voices Concern

LD1810104393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] The crime situation in Belarus has deteriorated sharply. There is a steady increase in criminal offenses, including serious crimes. Our correspondent, Yuriy Svirko, reports by telephone from Minsk with the details:

[Svirko] Whereas 75,000 crimes were recorded in Belarus in 1990, and the figures for 1991 and 1992 were 81,000 and 95,000 respectively, in the first nine months of this year alone the republic's law-enforcement agencies registered almost the same number of crimes, 75,000, as in the whole of 1990. This was announced at a news conference by Belarus' Prosecutor General Vasiliy Shalodonov.

He is particularly alarmed by premeditated murders and attempted murders. There have already been 663 in Belarus in 1993, compared with 690 such cases in the whole of last year.

According to the Belarusian prosecutor general, the causes of the rise in crime are economic and social instability, the sharp decline in the standard of living, and the embittered attitudes among people to which this has led.

People have also lost confidence in state structures, Vasiliy Shalodonov stressed. He then cited the following figures to back up his statement. It turns out that 435 cases of bribery have already come to light this year—more than twice as many as in 1990 and 1991 together. But this year has not ended yet, and how many bribe-takers there must be still sitting at their posts unexposed? How is this to be countered? The Belarus prosecutor general told journalists that his department will set up a special section to fight corruption among state officials. Up to now, there simply have not been enough people to tackle the bureaucrats, who have been multiplying and growing ever bolder. It is enough to point out that the Belarusian prosecutor's department has a staff of slightly over 1,500, while there have been 26,000 unsolved crimes this year.

Nevertheless, Vasiliy Shalodonov is not losing optimism, perhaps partly because his staff will soon be receiving personal firearms as a result of increasing threats from criminals.

Yuriy Svirko from Minsk, for the Radio Russia news service.

National Military Academy To Start Operating in 1995

PM1510134993 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Oct 93 p 2

[Valeriy Kovalev report from the "From Our News Bureau" column: "Belarus Starts Training Its Own Military Commanders"]

[Text] The Belarusian Council of Ministers has adopted a decision to create a national military academy in the republic. It is to receive its first intake in the fall of 1995.

As Major General Ivan Zubko, chief of the Belarusian Republic Defense Ministry Personnel Directorate, informed KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, the academy will initially train combined-arms commanders of battalion, regiment, and brigade level. The Minsk Higher Combined-Arms Command School will "share" training facilities and teaching staff with the new educational institution. This will make it possible to reduce considerably the outlay on setting up the new military higher educational institution.

Moldova

Snegur Hopes for Russian Help To Solve Dniester Crisis

LD1310230193 Moscow INTERFAX in English 2046 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Most Moldovans and the country's government supported from the outset the resolute action undertaken by President Yeltsin to quell the rebellion and restore law and order in Moscow, Moldovan President Mircea Snegur said in an Ostankino channel TV interview. In his words, "the future of the world community as well as of the democratic reforms in the Russian Federation were at stake" during those days.

Snegur warned of the danger of revenge seekers who "have by no means reconciled to the defeat." In his view,

the self-proclaimed Transdniestrian Republic (TDR) "is prepared to again become the refuge and spring board of the red-and-browns."

The president emphasized that the mock trial of the so-called Ilascu group on charges of subversive activities against the TDR illustrated the anti-democratic and anti-human policies of the Tiraspol authorities. In his words, the Transdniestrian leaders ignore all appeals of numerous governments and public figures, notably President Yeltsin, to stop the farce and hand the accused over to the constitutional judicial authorities of Moldova.

Snegur expressed the hope that "the democratic forces which now dictate the Russian policy will show consistency and prove their loyalty to democracy and liberty by supporting the Moldovan government in its efforts to have the Transdniestrian crisis resolved and the political detainees freed."

Lebed Views Role of Dniester in Moscow Events

AU1510142093 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2032 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS 13/10/1993—General Aleksandr Lebed held a press conference on the recent events in Moscow and on the involvement of Transdniester commandos there. He stated that investigation services of the Russian security, Prosecutor's Office and espionage have data about the involvement of some Transdniestrian militaries in the defence of the "White House." According to Lebed, Russian investigation bodies know the names of 8 officers of the Dniester battalion who went to Moscow at the order of Nicolae Matveyev, Transdniestrian vice minister of defence. They also know the numbers of some arms sent to Moscow from Tiraspol or given to some deputies of the Russian Supreme Soviet during their visit to Tiraspol. Lebed showed two documents proving that Tiraspol supplied arms and munition to adherents of Khasbulatov and Rutskoy. He said that Shevtsov, Transdniestrian minister of security and Matveyev, vice minister of interior, have organized the trip of commandos and arms to Moscow without acknowledging the Transdniestrian President Igor Smirnov and the speaker Grigorie Maracuta. The Russian general asserted that Russia had punished Transdniester for its role in the Moscow rebellion, sanctioning it economically. If the Moscow Supreme Soviet had previously supported Transdniester politically and the presidency and government—economically—this will not happen again, said Lebed. He believes that unless some measures are undertaken against ministers Shevtsov and Matveyev, the Dniester Moldovan Republic will find itself in a sad plight. A military from the Tiraspol Dniester battalion was arrested in Moscow, added Lebed. At another press conference today, Igor Smirnov categorically denied the involvement of Transdniestrian commandos in the Moscow rebellion.

Caraman Denies Dniester Involvement in Moscow Rebellion

AU1710162093 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2130 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/10/1993—The opinion of Moscow about Dniester will not change after the Moscow rebellion, stated to BASA Alexandru Caraman, vice-president of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic. General Lebed said that Dniester commandos were involved in the Moscow rebellion, but this should be first of all proved, said Caraman. "There is no document that could be presented as proof. We proposed the Moscow Prosecutor's Office to cooperate with us if it finds such a document, but we received no answer," stressed Caraman. At the same time, Caraman admits that certain members of the "Dniester" battalion took part in the Moscow bloodshed, but he excluded the fact that they carried out orders of the Tiraspol government.

Socialists Deplore Yeltsin's Dissolution of Parliament

AU1710203793 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2115 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/10/1993—The decree of President Yeltsin on the dissolution of the Soviet and Congress of Deputies is anticonstitutional and can be regarded as a starting point for the tragic events in Moscow. This is the opinion of the Chisinau council of the Socialist Party, announced in the party's newspaper DREPTATE (JUSTICE). The liquidation of legal state bodies, the ban on some opposition parties and newspapers show the antidemocratic and totalitarian tendencies of the Russian leadership, states the newspaper.

Politicians View Prospects of Tiraspol-Moscow Relations

AU1710162293 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2130 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/10/1993—Alexandru Arseni, president of the Labour Democratic Party, declared to BASA that Moscow has substantial reasons to change its attitude towards the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic and the withdrawal of the 14th Army. Arseni considers that despite the changes in Moscow's attitude, the problem of the Dniester region must be solved by state bodies of Moldova. Valeriu Senic, coordinative member of the Socialist Party, argued that Moscow had enough reasons to withdraw the 14th Army before the dramatic events in October. "Even if up to a certain moment the 14th Army played a stabilizing role, Moscow should understand that it is located not on the territory of Dniester, but on the Moldovan territory," concluded Senic.

Party Leaders Assert Moscow Still Abetting Tiraspol

AU1710203193 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2115 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/10/1993—The official policy of Moscow towards Dniester had already changed, said Aurel Talmaci, vice-president of the Agrarian Democratic Party. Talmaci stressed that there are still some structures in Moscow which will deliver economic and political support to separatists of Tiraspol. "I do not think there will be great changes in the withdrawal of the 14th Army either," remarked Talmaci. Gheorghe Ghimpu, leader of the Democratic Party, told BASA that the policy of Russia towards the former Soviet republics remains chauvinist. "Dramatic events in Moscow were caused by the fight for power. Yeltsin's wishes to have military bases on territories of the former republics, to maintain the ruble-zone and to create the Economic Union, are parts of the same imperial politics, but promoted now 'wearing gloves'," considers Ghimpu.

Lucinschi Asks Council of Europe To Help Tiraspol Prisoners

AU1510141093 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1820 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES 14/10/1993—The president of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova, Petru Lucinschi, called on the secretary general of the Council of Europe, on the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Court for Human Rights and other European fora to come to the support of the political prisoners in Tiraspol.

The appeal shows that in the so-called capital of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic the would-be prosecutor of Transdniester asked for the death penalty against three citizens of the Republic of Moldova: Ilie Ilascu, Tudor Petrov-Popa and Ion Ivantoc.

In the circumstances in which the Transdniester leaders flagrantly violate human rights, only international assistance in having the trial transferred from Tiraspol to Chisinau could prevent the death of innocent people by securing impartial and independent judges, and where the defendants could be treated in keeping with international standards, with the observance of human rights, the appeal writes.

Snegur Appeals to World Figures To Stop Tiraspol Trial

AU1510200193 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1719 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau ROMPRES 15/10/1993—The president of the Republic of Moldova Mircea Snegur addressed messages to Butrus Butrus-Ghali, UN secretary-general, Margaretha af Ugglas, acting chairman of the CSCE, Jacques Delors, chairman of the European Commission, Catherine Lalumiere, secretary-general of the Council of Europe, Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation, concerning the trial of five Romanian patriots going on in Tiraspol.

President Snegur expressed worry for the fate of the detainees and asked international bodies and the Russian President to take urgent steps to put an end to the frame-up of the leaders of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic, thus showing respect for justice and human rights, reports MOLDOVA PRESS, quoting the presidency of the Republic of Moldova.

14th Army Commander Lebed Resigns Dniester Deputy Seat

AU1710203293 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2115 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/10/1993—General Lebed, commander of the 14th Army, stated yesterday at the extraordinary session of the Dniester Supreme Soviet that he renounced his deputy mandate and walked out. General Lebed made this statement after the Supreme Soviet rejected his proposal to dismiss the ministers of security and interior. Lebed presented proof for their involvement in the Moscow rebellion. He said that Dniester authorities did not listen to him and he would ask his superiors to transfer him out of Dniester. According to him, he will do this because he "failed to fulfil his task and because he was cheated." The head of the commission of the Dniester Supreme Soviet that examined the allegation of General Lebed announced to the audience that no military from the "Dniester" battalion was involved in the Moscow rebellion. Most of the persons mentioned by General Lebed were officially on vacation or in various delegations, the armament belonging to the "Dniester" battalion or to other detachments is in warehouses, states the commission. Stanislav Khazheyev, Dniester minister of defence, threatened the journalists who from his point of view issue false information. Igor Smirnov, Dniester president, and Grigore Maracuta, Dniester speaker, denied the information about sanctions imposed to Tiraspol by Moscow.

INTERFAX Reports Resignation

LD1510130393 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1201 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army, has said he is resigning his membership in the legislature of the self-proclaimed Transdniestrian Republic and is prepared to leave the area to take up a new position if the Russian Defense Ministry offers him one.

Lebed made this dramatic statement when the Transdniestrian Supreme Soviet flatly refused to punish Security Minister Vadim Shevtsov and Deputy Interior Minister Nikolay Matveyev who, Lebed says, had sent fighters and weapons to support the former Supreme

Soviet of Russia. This issue was discussed by an extraordinary meeting of the legislature which ended late Thursday night.

Lebed and his few followers in the Transdniestrian Supreme Soviet said that they had documents at their disposal confirming complicity of the "power" ministries in the sending of fighters to Moscow and demanded that they should be punished. The Transdniestrian leaders rejected this demand, saying again that they had no official confirmation of these allegations from Russia.

Transdniestrian Supreme Soviet Chairman Grigory Marakutsa and President Igor Smirnov accused Lebed of discrediting their republic in the eyes of Russia.

Following this, the general gave his statement. He noted that there was "a wall of alienation" between him and the Transdniestrian leaders, and then left the parliament building.

More on Resignation

AU1510123293 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1100 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Mircea Dascaliuc report from Chisinau]

[Text] Last night General Aleksandr Lebed, the commander of the 14th Russian Army, which is stationed on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, resigned from the parliament of the self-styled Dniester republic. This unexpected and to say the least puzzling gesture of Lebed's was explained by the existence of a wall of discord separating him from the Dniester republic's supreme soviet. That dissent originates in the Russian general's statements related to the support granted by certain Dniester members of parliament to the conservative Russian forces that organized the September coup in Moscow. Lebed presented figures, documents, and names, and he even concretely mentioned the quantity of weapons that had been sent to the capital of the Russian Federation. The fact that the Dniester lawmaking body has rejected General Lebed's disclosures seems to be the principal reason for his resignation as a member of that body.

According to the Dniester correspondent of Moldovan national radio, General Lebed has declared that he will request that the Supreme Command [of the Russian Army] transfer him from the region.

Lebed Upset With Data Rejection

LD1710153293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0713 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Our special correspondent Sergey Fateyev has visited the Dniester region. Here is his report on the situation that has evolved since the October events in Moscow.

[Fateyev] On the swell of passions around the October mutiny in Moscow, facts, evidence, and other proof are splashed over the front pages of newspapers, television, and radio, that a group of fighters from the "Dniester" battalion was among the most desperate and intransigent militants storming the mayor's office, Ostankino and defending the White House. The Tiraspol battalion immediately denied the information. It was also denied by Dniester President Igor Smirnov, who said in an interview that it was quite possible and, most likely, that former defenders of the Dniester region, who, taking their uniforms with them, over the last year have dispersed to different towns, and could, among other militants, have taken part in the October events in Moscow. But the Dniester official authorities and power structures have had nothing to do with it. [passage omitted: the Russian 14th Army deployed in the Dniester region has come under continuous attack]

Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Army, mentioned one of these accusations at a news conference in Tiraspol on 13 October.

[Begin Lebed recording] A KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent spoke to an officer from the "Dniester" battalion in Tiraspol who had arrived in Moscow to defend the White House. According to the officer, General Lebed, the commander of the 14th Army, in fact approved the arrival of the battalion in Moscow. Nice, isn't it? [end recording]

[Fateyev] [passage omitted: Lebed denied these and other accusations] He told the media and many guests that he had the proof that on the instruction of two, newly fledged Dniester generals, Shevtsov and Matveyev, without consulting the president and parliament, both arms and fighters had been sent from the Dniester Region to Moscow. Lebed said he had a lot of operational information to prove this, and he, Lebed, knew of real people who had taken part in the mutiny and he had some documents from the Dniester Security Ministry. Also, Lebed said the parliament and government of the Dniester Republic, by burying its head in the sand, was taking no measures, was not feeling any remorse and did not want to punish the criminal generals. Because of that the Dniester Region was threatened with a Russian economic blockade.

On the insistent request of Aleksandr Lebed, who was recently elected a deputy, the Dniester Supreme Soviet was convened again on 14 October to discuss the situation. The session heard Lebed's warning speech and then members of the parliamentary commission, which was specially set up, the procurator, the power ministers [defense, security, interior] and leaders of the Dniester Republic spoke. Using figures, facts, and concrete documents, they denied the accusations of the commander of the 14th Army, inter alia regarding the weapons and the concrete people named by him who, allegedly, took part in the mutiny. They said they were in constant contact with law enforcement bodies in Moscow and with the Russian leaders and no blockade of the Dniester Region, inter alia on the part of banks, had been, or was under discussion. [passage omitted: the Dniester region had

nothing to feel remorse for; the Dniester security minister said some of Lebed's accusations were deliberate disinformation]

Everyone was waiting for Lebed's response. He, as if surrendering, it seems for the first time in his life, said they should not feel sorry for him. If parliament thinks everything is fine and nobody here wants to hear his warnings or his information, he is resigning as a deputy of the Dniester Supreme Soviet. If the Russian Defense Ministry finds it possible, he is prepared to change the place of service. Attempts to stop Aleksandr Lebed and requests to pass the information available to him to the republic's procuracy failed. [passage omitted: at meetings with voters Lebed confirmed his decision to resign]

However, some observers think that, by his actions and statements, an experienced military man who is turning into a politician, Gen. Lebed is trying to exert pressure on the Dniester Parliament and Government aimed at preempting a possible negative reaction from Russia in the future.

Lebed Distances Himself From Parliament

LD1610181193 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1600 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] General Aleksandr Lebed, the commander of the 14th Russian Army stationed in the Dniester region, said at a meeting in his constituency today that he did not intend to submit any petitions to the Defense Ministry with requests to be transferred to serve in another area.

He criticized individual state structures in the Dniester region, stressing that he was not prepared to cooperate with the Dniester region parliament in its present form.

Snegur Appeals to Eastern Regions To End Dispute

AU1710203593 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2115 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/10/1993—It is time to abandon mutual accusations and unite our efforts in consolidating the independence of Moldova and creating a flourishing country from the economic and social point of view, declares an appeal of President Mircea Snegur to citizens of Moldovan eastern regions. All the problems of smoothing the situation in Moldova's east can only be solved giving these regions a special status which will reflect peculiarities in their development, stated Snegur. After the dramatic events of spring and summer of the last year even the most "tough" forces "realized that brutal and violent force cannot lead to a mutually acceptable solution," says the appeal. The President argues that constructive proposals of the Moldovan Government had collided with ambitious of some high dignitaries. They promote a conservative policy in the so-called Supreme Soviet of Tiraspol and expect the return to power of "godfathers" of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic from the team of Lukyanov, Rutskoy and Khasbulatov who strive to disintegrate Moldova and create a quasi-federation. The failure of the Moscow mutiny spoiled the last hopes of political adventurers from all levels. "In Dniester, as well as in other regions of Moldova, there are people of goodwill who understand the danger of aggravating the present situation and are ready to assume responsibility in this critical moment for Moldova. With these people we are ready to continue the political dialogue," stated President Snegur. According to him, the first step towards establishing a stable peace must be done by Tiraspol dignitaries by transferring the Ilascu group to legal Moldovan bodies of justice. Sentencing these political detainees is equivalent to a new ignoration of the Moldovan constitutional power, states the appeal.

Parliament Discusses Law on Elections

AU1510140293 Chisinau BASA?RESS in English 2032 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 13/10/1993—Yesterday evening, the deputies of the Moldovan Parliament discussed the law on parliamentary elections on the basis of many parties. The law was previously approved in the first reading by 178 deputies. The fraction "Viata Satului" demanded the postponement of the session for a while. This would allow the fractions examine the law project. The examination and amendment of the law began after long debates. The last variant of the law will be voted during today's session. According to the fourth article of this project, mental insane people, those convicted, military men, judges, prosecutors, policemen, the premier, parliamentary vice speakers, heads of the parliamentary commission and members of the parliamentary Presidium will be not allowed to take part in the elections.

Parliament To Examine Amendments to Electoral Law

AU1510140493 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2032 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 13/10/1993—During today's Parliamentary session deputies debated the project of law concerning elections to the Moldovan Parliament. The session was attended by 189 people. Numerous debates were caused by the fifth article which allows only parties participate in the electoral campaign, excluding social and political movements. They also did not reach an agreement on the sixth article which fixes the number of people each deputy will represent. Gheorghe Ghimpu, leader of the Democratic Party and Valeriu Matei, speaker of the Congress of Intelligentsia proposed this figure to be 3 percent of the population while the norm of representation in a future Parliament should be 28,000 electors. Previously, authors of the project proposed 5 percent. Deputy Zhavgorodniy claimed the right of militaries to be candidates during elections in Parliament. This right is provided in the law on social and judicial protection of militaries. The Parliamentary deputy chairman Victor Puscas called this

law an anachronism and non-corresponding to international standards. Speaker Petru Lucinschi announced a pause till 12.30 a.m. [1030 GMT] for parliamentary fractions to present proposed amendments written down. At 13:15 a.m. only 164 deputies came to the session hall; the Democratic Labour Party and Christian Democratic Popular Front had not presented their amendments. They today's session had not approved at least one amendment. The next session is planned for tomorrow. Lucinschi informed deputies that tomorrow the Parliament would vote the amendments.

Parliament Reaches Compromise, Calls Early Elections

MK1510152693 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 3

[Aleksandr Tago report in the "Moldova" column: "The Date of Early Parliamentary Elections Is Known. Which Law They Will Follow Will Have To Be Established"]

[Text] After a protracted parliamentary crisis in Moldova, Speaker Petr Luchinksiy miraculously managed to revive the moribund legislative body. Aware of the inexpediency of constant reciprocal blocking tactics, the deputies simply got tired of going on with the session, which began back in August without adopting any decision. Opposing factions responded to persuasion from the parliament presidium and its speaker and agreed on a compromise.

A majority of agrarian deputies advocating early elections finally emerged in the session, and the opposition in response agreed with the proposal to organize early parliamentary elections. As reported earlier, the deputies passed a resolution whereby early parliamentary elections in Moldova have been set for 27 February 1994. This does not mean yet that the legislature will be dissolved, that is to say, that it will dissolve itself. The document provides that the current deputies will preserve their mandates until election day, while the parliament presidium will keep its mandate until the first session of the new legislature.

Therefore a fairly civilized way out of the parliamentary crisis, which has been continuing for a year now, has been found in Moldova. Parliament will continue to work although it is hardly possible to expect that any serious decisions or fundamental legislative acts will be adopted until February. They will inevitably drown in disagreements between the factions of the present parliament.

This became obvious immediately after the decision on early elections was made. Out of the two draft election laws the deputies gave preference to one that provides for the holding of elections on a proportional representation basis, that is to say, on party tickets. The deputies disagreed on the very first articles of the document. They failed to come to a consensus with respect to citizens who have the right to vote and to nominate themselves as candidates, and also on the minimum number of votes required for political parties and movements to enter the new parliament. The parliamentary majority, for the most part supporting the agrarian party, proposes that only those parties should get seats in parliament that poll no less than 5 percent of the popular vote, while the opposition, whose authority has been seriously shaken recently, proposes to reduce the quota to 3 percent. Thus marginal political parties advocating the program of the Christian Democratic People's Front would gain access to parliament.

The opposition, pursuing a fairly principled stand, came up against a categoric refusal by the parliamentary majority to forge a compromise. Many representatives of agrarian deputies yet again walked out of the house. The agrarians believe that their minimum task has been fulfilled. Early elections have been scheduled and their date is known, but the law according to which they will be held is of no real importance to them. In any event, they are confident of victory in the elections, even if the elections follow the old law providing for the election of 365 deputies in territorial constituencies. For the agrarians this is even better than the election of 100 deputies under the new law on a professional parliament.

Passes Law on Elections

AU1710162393 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2130 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/10/1993—Today, with 183 votes "for" the parliament adopted the legislation regarding parliamentary elections. According to the legislation the whole republic is a single electoral district. The quote of presentation is established to four percent of all electors. At the elections which will be organised on February 27th, 2,800,000 electors are going to participate. The decision to create the single republican electoral district was approved only after the third voting. The parliament could not decide the suspension of 20 deputy mandates from Dniester and Tighina (Bender). At the next session planned for the October 19th Victor Puscas, deputy chairman of the parliament, is to present the concrete mechanism of organising elections in one electoral district. Speaker Petru Lucinschi promised that all deputies who will not attend the next session on Tuesday the 19th of October will lose their diplomatic passports and privileges.

Government-Trade Union Talks on Minimal Salary Fail

AU1710162193 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2130 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 14/10/1993—The participants at the today's negotiations in the three-party commission Government-Trade Unions-Patronage did not reach an agreement on the minimal salary. The social

needs exceed the state financial possibilities, Prime Vice Premier Nicolae Andronati stated. He presided over the meeting. The representatives of trade unions plead for the increase of the minimal salary by 2-2.5 times. According to the calculations of the trade unions, the minimal consumption budget is about 50,000 rubles. Trade unions will use more decisive methods if the government presidium of the Moldovan Federation of Independent Trade Unions [sentence as received]. Moldova does not have the necessary financial means to increase the minimal salary, stated the Minister of Finance Claudia Melnic. She added that for this supplementary means would be needed totalling 24 billion rubles. The problem could be solved only if national currency was introduced, Melnic stated. Eugenia Mihailov, prime vice minister of finance, said that firstly the social vulnerable layers of the society should be protected. It was decided to continue the negotiations on October 18th. The project of the presidential decree on the financial stabilization of industrial units that are almost bankrupt was finalized during the session of the tripartite commission. The project dwells upon the privileged branches and the fiscal facilities to grant them, the payment of debts and the indexation of incomes of economic entities. It was mentioned during the meeting that the delay in the signing of this decree could make the industry bankrupt.

Government Examines Measures To Combat Crime

AU1510140793 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2032 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 13/10/1993—During 9 months of 1993 in Moldova 27,255 crimes were committed. This is a 4.8 percent decrease in comparison with the same period of 1992, declared Constantin Antoci, minister of interior at the meeting convoked at government headquarters by requests of mayors of regional executives. At the meeting questions concerning crime in Moldova and possible ways of cooperation between local administrations were discussed. It was pointed out that there are some mismatches between local administrations' ways of coping with crime. Antoci indicated that during this year 4,989 serious crimes were committed. He remarked that the most tensed situation created in Chisinau. The quoted source stated that 70of all armed infringements remained unrevealed. He stressed that many crimes were committed by policemen. In this context the minister related that in 9 months over 1,000 people including 299 officers were dismissed from police. Approximately 2,000 policemen had administrative punishment. President Mircea Snegur who was chairman of the meeting, concluded that many of the mentioned problems including those regarding the subordination of local judicial bodies to city halls, will be solved by presidential decrees or governmental decisions.

Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Requests Emergency Economic Powers

MK1510154193 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 3

[Sergey Kozlov report under the "Kazakhstan" rubric: "Nazarbayev Requests Emergency Powers. To All Appearances, Parliament Will Give Them to Him"]

[Text] Mass protests, which were feared in Almaty, have not materialized. Instead of the promised multi-thousand picketing of the parliament building, a group of a few dozen pensioners assembled there by the beginning of the 11th session. Activists of the "Generation" ["Pokoleniye"] organization advanced their usual demands—that a law on the consumer price basket be passed, acceptable pensions be introduced, and the minimum wage be established.

The veterans, however, were joined by 17 miners—representatives of the trade union of coal industry workers from Karaganda, but this did not add to the action's effect. Zhasaral Kuanysh-Ali, leader of the National Democratic Party of Kazakhstan, explained that picketing by national Kazakh parties was not promptly prepared. The action's main sponsors—the Union of Homeless and the Attan group—did not display the requisite level of organization, while Azat and Zheltoksan, the republicans, and national democrats would not take over the initiative.

The first day of the session was also marked by unusual speed and high productivity from the outset. In particular, the Kazakhstani Supreme Council ratified two agreements—on merging the money systems of Russia and Kazakhstan and on practical measures to create a ruble zone of a new type. President Nazarbayev delivered a 90- minute speech. Saying that the Moscow agreement marked the start of the countries' forward movement, Nazarbayev was nonetheless self- critical. In 1992-1993, production plunged in the republic by 25 percent against 1991, including industrial production by 22 percent and retail sales by 41 percent. In this connection the president said with a sigh: "It is evidently me who will have to take the most painful measures."

This applies, above all, to a seven-point priority plan to reign in inflation, which includes the suspension of social and environmental programs, the elimination of extra-budget funds, caps on wage increase funds, and other plainly unpopular steps.

The head of state also mentioned the emergency powers that he may need in order to carry out these measures and the economic restructuring in general. They include the right to introduce a national currency at his discretion, to appoint judges, to delegate lawmaking functions to the executive bodies, and to subordinate the national bank to the government. In addition, the head of state effectively spoke out for the abolition of soviets at the level of villages and auls [rural settlements].

Sauk Takezhanov, the president's opponent and an advocate of an "independent course" with regard to Russia and the CIS favoring the introduction of a national currency, did not even have a chance to say a few words—his voice was drowned in the uproar of Nazarbayev's numerous supporters. It can be said with assurance that after this "demonstration of strength" the president will get any emergency powers, even if this means bypassing some articles of the current Constitution—maybe after weak resistance from the parliament chairman and a scant group of his supporters who will try to defend the prerogatives of the supreme legislative body.

Nazarbayev's commentary on renaming the Kazakhstani capital "back" elicited some surprise. The president said about the name "Almaty," which was for some mysterious reasons laid down in the Constitution: "We will have to put up with this for the time being in order to give the constitution stability, but generally speaking, I wonder how this could have crept in—people are now breaking their tongues throughout the world."

Nazarbayev To Visit China, Mongolia 18-22 Oct

LD1610114993 Almaty Radio Almaty World Service in English 1930 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Kazakhstan's president, Nursultan Nazarbayev, will visit the Peoples' Republic of China from the 18 to the 21 of October at the invitation of the chairman of the Chinese Government, Jiang Zemin.

Following his visit to China the Kazakhstani president will visit the Mongolian Peoples Republic on 21 and 22 of October at the invitation of the Mongolian president, Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat.

Departs on Visit to PRC

LD1810091793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0738 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin]

[Text] Almaty, 18 Oct—This morning, Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev left for an official visit to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

A joint declaration of the principles of friendly relations between the two neighboring countries and intergovernment agreements on visits from one country to the other, on air traffic, and on cultural cooperation are expected to be signed after talks between the state delegation led by Kazakhstan's president and the Chinese leadership.

PRC President Offers Assurance on Nuclear Policy

LD1510163793 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1500 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] The president's press service reports that on the eve of his visit to China, President Nazarbayev received a personal letter from PRC President Jiang Zemin. The letter refers to one sent by Nazarbayev on 30 September about his concern in connection with the nuclear test in China.

China displays full understanding for this concern about nuclear tests and Kazakhstan's stand concerning the moratorium on nuclear tests. The Chinese Government approaches this issue seriously and with responsibility, the letter goes on to say, and makes every effort to reduce to the minimum the consequences of nuclear tests.

The Chinese head of state informed about his country's efforts to preserve security and stability in the world, and therefore his government stands for universal banning and complete elimination of nuclear weapons. China will never and under no circumstances be the first to use nuclear weapons and confirms this with regard to the friendly state of Kazakhstan.

The letter contains high appraisal of the contribution made by Nazarbayev to deepen and develop these processes and expresses confidence that China and Kazakhstan, being two influential states in Asia, will take an active part in the efforts of the world public to create a nuclear-free world. Chinese-Kazakh relations should be raised to a higher level, and the forthcoming visit by Nazarbayev will promote a deeper exchange of opinions on all issues of mutual interest.

DPRK Envoy Says UN, IAEA Plotting Against Korea

LD1710210393 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Pak Chae-pil, the DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Kazakhstan, has described the actions of certain circles in the secretariats of the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] and the United Nations as a political plot aimed at undermining the sovereignty of North Korea.

At a news conference in Almaty, he acquainted journalists with a statement by the DPRK Nuclear Energy Ministry, that asserts that there was an attempt to misrepresent [falsifikatsiya] the opinion of the UN secretary general in an effort to create a terrible nuclear monster out of the DPRK.

According to the diplomat, the 37th regular conference of the IAEA, that took place in Austria recently, received a message from the UN secretary general. But allegedly, as a check showed, it was sent without his agreement or signature. Furthermore, the contents of the document run counter to the point of view of this esteemed person, and to the facts about nuclear research in North Korea.

In the opinion of the ambassador, an atmosphere of distrust on the part of the world community in the foreign policy activity of North Korea is being whipped up by falsifying documents. Certain circles are striving to preserve tension between the North and the South and thus to prevent their unification.

However, as Pak Chae-pil also noted, in spite of everything, the position of the DPRK on turning the Korean Peninsula into a nuclear free zone remains unchanged. The leadership and the entire people see a solution to the nuclear problem in the region only through Korean-U.S. talks at the highest level.

Former Communists Publish New RESPUBLIKA Paper

LD1510125993 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 0700 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] The first issue of RESPUBLIKA appeared today. Its founders are the political executive committee of the Socialist Party of Kazakhstan [former Communist Party], the Asia joint stock company, the Council for Peace and Consent of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and the Informmedi joint stock society.

Parliament Debates Changing National Holiday to Oct

LD1510152593 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1300 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] At the parliament session, President Nursultan Nazarbayev raised the issue of transferring the celebration of the main official republican holiday from 16 December to 25 October.

On 16 December 1991, the law "on the state independence of the Republic of Kazakhstan" was adopted. But the first act on the path toward gaining independence by the republic was "the declaration on state sovereignty," which was confirmed by the Supreme Council on 25 October 1990.

Kyrgyzstan

Draft Decision Recommends Halving Armed Forces

LD1610133493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0718 GMT 16 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek, 16 Oct—A government draft decision, forwarded to the republic's State Committee for Defense Affairs, proposes that Kyrgyzstan's Armed Forces should be halved.

However, as reactions here show, the draft is giving rise to a negative response among officers. "We are not defending our interests out of fear of being thrown onto the street," Lieutenant Colonel Akzhol Isayev, head of the press center of Kyrgyzstan's State Committee for Defense Affairs, declared. "It is a question of the interests of the state. The republic's Army scarcely amounts to 0.2 percent of the total Kyrgyz population. According to latest figures, just over 4 million people live in the republic. Yet Kazakhstan's Armed Forces are six times greater, Uzbekistan's are five times greater, and those of China's Xinjiang military district (which borders on Kyrgyzstan) are 60 times greater than ours."

National Army has a chronic shortage of officers specialists. Young people, even if they are Kyrgyz, now prefer to serve in Russia and other CIS countries, where not only is the pay higher, but there are promotion prospects as well. The current government draft decision may give rise to a fresh exodus of career soldiers from the Army, and that, Lt. Col. Isayev said, may well leave Kyrgyzstan without its own Armed Forces.

Leaders Meet With British Foreign Secretary Hurd

LD1510143593 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 0000 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] As has already been reported, yesterday British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd arrived on an official visit to Kyrgyzstan. The eminent guest and accompanying delegation were received by President Askar Akayev and Prime Minister Chyngyshev. A number of documents concerning cooperation in the field of economy, education, science, and culture, were signed.

At the Foreign Affairs Ministry, problems concerning the development of diplomatic relations between the two countries were discussed. A news conference for journalists was held.

UK Minister Hogg Holds News Conference in Bishkek

LD1410211293 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1956 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Britain will study means of aiding reforms in Kyrgyzstan, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Douglas Hogg said at a news conference in Bishkek Thursday at the end of his talks with President Askar Akayev and Prime Minister Tursunbek Chyngyshev.

Hogg said that Akayev had given him a list of most important areas in which economic cooperation was desirable, notably the oil industry, ore mining and farm product processing.

Joint declarations were signed on bilateral economic cooperation and on cooperation between the two foreign ministries. Discussion of a British-proposed memorandum on free movement in both countries was postponed because the Kyrgyz parliament had not passed legislation on entry and exit of the country or on citizenship.

Air Communications Cooperation Planned With Pakistan

LD1510142493 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 0000 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] A delegation from Pakistan arrived in Bishkek to establish direct links with the state structures of Kyrgyzstan. The delegation consists of representatives from the Department of Civil Aviation, the Defense Ministry of Pakistan, the air company Aeroeshma, and the Tabani Corporation. The foreign guests met Vice Prime Minister Turar Koychiyev and discussed problems of mutual interest concerning defense and the national air company Kyrgyz Aba Zhulduru [airways]. An agreement on air communication between the two Asian states was signed.

Iranian President Rafsanjani To Visit 20-22 Oct

LD1810105293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0740 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Bishkek, 18 Oct—The official visit to Kyrgyzstan by 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which will take place 20-22 October, has been officially announced here. During the visit it is expected that several documents will be signed, including an agreement on setting up a Kyrgyz-Iranian intergovernmental commission on cooperation in trade, the economy, science, technology and culture, an agreement on reciprocal visa-free journeys, and an agreement on settling accounts between banks.

Tajikistan

Russian Border Guard Chief on Border Situation

PM1510140593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 2

[Aleksandr Rybakov report under "Hot Spots" rubric: "From Guarding to Defending. Provocations Are Continuing on the Tajik-Afghan Border"]

[Text] The 12th Post of the Moskovskiy Border Detachment has once again been subjected to a rocket attack by an opposition grouping of more than 300 men, which crossed onto Tajik territory from Afghanistan 2 October and fortified its position in an almost inaccessible mountain locality 12 km from the line of the state border. The staff of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan has reported that the enemy's emplacements were crushed by return artillery fire from Russian border guards.

The staff also reported that a detail of one of the 201st Division subunits, which were attached in order to reinforce the guarding of the border, was fired upon in

the region of the same 12th Post. One serviceman was injured. The source emphasized that the firing originated from contiguous territory.

The border guards maintain that the firing against the 12th Border Post was cover for a border crossing by a three-man group. In the course of the operation to detain them one of the intruders was killed, another was detained, and a search is now under way for the third one.

"The Tajik-Afghan border is still our sore point," Lieutenant General Aleksandr Tymko, chief of staff of the Russian border troops, believes. "Armed formations of the Islamic Revival Party have changed their tactic with the support of individual Afghan gunmen and switched to a long partisan war—they are filtering through onto Tajik territory in large groups and firing on posts and taking hostages."

In September alone there were 30 attempts to cross the border, and 13 clashes occurred, in which 20 gunmen died.

In all, more than 150 attacks have been made on border guards since the beginning of the year, and armed clashes have occurred 50 times, in which 31 border guards have died and more than 40 have been injured. The Moskovskiy Border Detachment, primarily the 12th Post, gets it worst of all.

It cannot be said that a search is not being conducted for a peaceful solution to the conflict. The institution of border commissars has activated its work, and a protocol has been signed with the commander of the 55th Afghan Infantry Division on mutual pledges to guard the border opposite the 1st and 8th Posts. Contacts are being arranged with the 5th Afghan Border Brigade, good relations have taken shape with General Dustum's formations, and meetings have been held with the command of the border's northern sector. But individual mojahedin detachments and Tajik gunmen frequently violate agreements.

Meanwhile Russia still bears the brunt of guarding the border. The CIS states continguous with Tajikistan are in no hurry to implement the accords that were reached on creating coalition forces under a joint command. It had been planned that border troops would be in the first echelon and coalition forces (approximately four regiments) in the second. But information has already come through that Uzbekistan intends to recall its soldiers. "If this really is the case," A. Tymko remarked, "it is to be regretted." It is impossible to disagree with him. The Tajik-Afghan border is a kind of gateway to Central Asia. If it is not strengthened, weapons and drugs will flood into the CIS. Not to mention the danger of Islamization in its most aggressive form.

Today, under conditions of constant provocations, Russian border guards have also been forced to change their tactic—to switch from guarding the border to defending it, i.e. to troop operations, if necessary.

CIS Peacekeeping Forces To Guard Afghan Border

LD1610102993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] The peacekeeping forces of the CIS countries will be engaged in guarding the Tajik-Afghan border, Colonel General Boris Pyankov, commander of the peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan, stated to journalists in Dushanbe. According to him, this will allow the Tajik-Afghan border to be strengthened. The general reported that the peacekeeping units from Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Russia, and other CIS countries will soon be arriving to guard this border.

Situation on Afghan Border Reportedly Deteriorates

LD1610113993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] The headquarters of the group of Russian border troops in Dushanbe has announced that the border situation in the Kalaikhumb sector of the Tajik-Afghan border in Gorno-Badakhshan has deteriorated. According to the available information, a group currently numbering up to 150 men is concentrated on the adjacent territory. Men, weapons and ammunition are continuing to arrive. This group is composed mainly of fighters from the Tajik Islamic opposition. On 16 October, leaders of the group asked representatives of the Russian border troops for an unscheduled meeting. Talks are in progress on the adjacent territory.

Russian border forces, a Kazakh battalion, and special units of Tajikistan's National Security Committee have been put on a state of heightened combat readiness in connection with the deterioration of the situation, INTERFAX has reported.

'Armed Provocation' Foiled

LD1710121493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1158 GMT 17 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe October 17 TASS—Russian border guards on Sunday thwarted an armed provocation on the part of Tajik opposition militants who have entrenched themselves in Afghanistan.

A small group of militants tried to get pack animals laden with weapons across the river in the area of border picket no. 9 of the Panj border-guarding detachment. However, as a result of prompt and resolute actions of border guards, the attempt was foiled, a spokesman at the command headquarters of the group of Russian border troops in Tajikistan told ITAR-TASS.

According to the command headquarters, a calm situation is keeping on in the Kalaikhum sector of the Pamirs

part of the border, where Russian and Kazakhstan border guards have been placed on a high alert since Saturday.

The measure was prompted by a dangerous massing of armed militants and hardware in the area of the Afghan border village of Nusai.

Armenia

President To Visit Moscow for Talks on Money Crisis

LD1610143893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1200 GMT 16 Oct 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Recently the republic has been literally flooded with old Soviet banknotes, brought in by both local and imported con-men. The result is hyper-inflation and massive price rises, which have thrown thousands and thousands of people—I will remind you that the minimum wage in Armenia is 7,500 rubles in Soviet banknotes—practically to the depths of life [as heard]. The Armenia parliament has been discussing the situation for two days behind doors which for some reason are closed. Having turned down a proposal from a group of deputies to introduce a national currency as a means of ending the crisis, the Supreme Soviet ratified the agreement on the republic's entry into the ruble zone. A special operational commission has been set up to control money in circulation. Speaking in parliament, President Levon Ter-Petrosyan said that on 18 October, at the beginning of next week, he will fly to Moscow to discuss issues connected with offering Armenia new Russian money. [video shows market traders, large amounts of money, Ter-Petrosyan speaking]

Economic Crisis Looms as Leaders Visit Moscow

MK1610123393 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 3

[Armen Khanbabyan report in "Armenia" column: "Financial Situation in Republic Close to Collapse. The Treaty on Entering the Ruble Zone Has Been Ratified"]

[Text] The two-day closed hearing in the Armenian parliament devoted to the discussion of options for overcoming the financial destabilization has ended with the ratification of treaties on the republic's entering the ruble zone and unification of Armenia's and Russia's monetary systems. This happened despite sharp opposition from a number of deputies who insisted on an immediate introduction of a national currency. President Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan, however, managed to convince the parliamentarians that there is no serious alternative to the Russian ruble at present. Furthermore, the Supreme Soviet has set up a commission including the Central Bank chairman, the finance minister, and the chairman of the parliamentary budget and finance commission. The commission is vested with emergency powers until 31 December.

Judging by statements from members of this commission, they intend to undertake decisive actions and are obviously favoring the introduction of an interim currency that can help protect the republic's market against an unprecedented dumping of old rubles which, as is known, has become the main reason for the current catastrophe. True, this extreme measure will apparently not be forthcoming for the time being until the situation over fresh cash supplies from Russia has been clarified. With the aim of speeding up emission, on 18 October the president and the premier will go to Moscow in an effort to persuade their Kremlin counterparts not to wait until Yerevan has officially adjusted its customs and financial and economic legislation to Russia's. This process could drag out for several years, and during this time the republic's budget and finances would fully collapse. However, in light of the recent statements by Russian Finance Minister Boris Fedorov about the undesirability of further subsidizing the former union republics, the mission of the Armenian leaders could end without particular success being accomplished. It is not accidental that Supreme Soviet Speaker Babken Ararktsyan stated that "the president and the premier will return from Moscow with a final decision," without specifying, however, which one in particular. Especially given that in Russia today so far there is no legislative body which, like the Armenian parliament, could ratify the documents on the creation of the ruble zone and a single monetary system.

Meanwhile the government is taking hectic measures seeking to cushion somehow the price blow on the population. The last stocks of butter and sugar have been put on sale at relatively low prices (to Moscow residents even they would appear too high). The private sector, however, is not even considering reacting to these efforts by reducing its rates. The Armenian private business bosses know very well that state resources will not last for very long since owing to events in Georgia the railway is still out of action and there are no food supplies coming in. Therefore unless the exchange of old rubles for the Russian currency is organized quickly, it will hardly be possible to cut the prices seriously. Indications are that the government understands this. It was not accidental that speaking in parliament, Grant Bagratyan noted that what has happened has totally undone his cabinet's eight months of work. And whereas in the August to September period the growth of the population's incomes has for the first time begun to outpace price growth, now everything will have to be started anew. It is not clear who will have to do this—the current cabinet or a new one, since the demands for the resignation of the premier and his team from the opposition are now becoming more persistent.

Surge in Inflation Cancels Pay Indexation Effects

PM1510134193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 Oct 93 p 3

[Vardan Aloyan report: "The Old Ruble Dances Better Than the New One"]

[Text] Wholesale inflation, which was so feared in Armenia, has happened. In literally just a few days the dollar exchange rate has leaped to 3,000 rubles [R], 1 kg of sugar has similarly leaped to R3,000, butter now costs

R7,000-8,000, and a jerrican of gasoline costs R60,000. And so forth. Naturally, all this is in Soviet rubles of the 1961-1992 pattern, whose worth is now half that of the new Russian rubles. In some private stores, not to mention stalls, goods are sold for the "new" rubles wherever possible or are hidden away altogether until the situation clears up. Only perishable foodstuffs are sold for "old" rubles—eggs, for example, at R5,500 each.

This is the situation that has taken shape. In just two or three days prices have literally eaten up the indexation (wages, pensions, etc. were increased 75-85 percent in the republic as of 1 October). Spokesmen for the Central Bank of Armenia deny rumors that this is happening because an exchange of old rubles for new ones is on the point of beginning, and they say that an exchange can begin, at best, toward the end of the year. Until then many people are afraid that the economic situation will deteriorate in a geometric progression. This is on the eve of winter, when people have to decide whether to spend money (if they have any) on at least some food supplies or to buy a little firewood and fuel oil on the eve of the cold weather.

But why, after all, have prices gone crazy? Some local observers believe that Armenian business people's stocks of the new Russian money have been exhausted, and it is this that is needed to purchase goods in other regions. Others blame the situation on the intervention of old rubles from the Central Asian republics. There are rumors that R30 billion in old rubles have already been brought in from there and that the customs confiscated R500 million in Soviet rubles from the passengers on just a single flight from Ashgabat....

Vice Premier Vagen Chitechyan appeared on television Saturday to reassure the population. He gave an assurance that the state has the situation under control, that the "black and green" markets will be eliminated, and that money exchange will henceforth take place under the state's auspices. But this "comforting" did not make things any easier for people. On Monday this problem was raised in parliament. Premier Grant Bagratyan came urgently to the deputies and once again "comforted" them, declaring that... something incomprehensible and inexplicable is happening nowadays in Armenia's economic life:

"In September we observed a tendency for the economy to grow, and this made it possible to carry out 80-percent indexation. We certainly did not expect such a leap in prices and an increase in the exchange rates of currencies."

The premier pointed out that he sees four causes of the steep increase in prices: Yeltsin's edict on the ruble's circulation on Russian territory, Ter-Petrosyan's edict on indexation, incomprehensible stockjobbing, and intervention by the 1961-pattern ruble from countries where the ruble is in circulation. He urged the deputies not to take any rash steps and to discuss this question in a closed session this morning.

The chairman of the Central Bank of Armenia is still in Moscow. The question of Armenia's switch to the 1993-pattern money will probably again be the first item on the agenda of the talks with his Russian colleagues.

Not that everything has been so gloomy in Yerevan in recent days. After drivers stopped buying gasoline, for example, its price fell from R3,000 to R2,500. There are some lucky people who claim to have seen with their own eyes gasoline at just R46,000 for a jerrican. The energy situation has improved since Saturday in connection with a slight improvement in the supply of gas to the republic—the switch has been made from the sixth energy supply regime to the fourth. I will explain for the uninitiated: The sixth regime is when you get electricity at home for 90 minutes every 24 hours, the fifth regime for two hours, and the fourth regime for more than two hours every 24 hours. The banks are now giving between R2,600 and R2,800 in old rubles per dollar. The new ruble has "fallen" in price. Maybe the currency "scapegoats" really are to blame for everything, and not the government, as the opposition-minded press maintains?

Karabakh Parliament Continues Session; Armistice Holds

NC1610124993 Yerevan SNARK in English 0759 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Stepanakert, October 16 (SNARK)—Today the session of the Karabakh parliament continues its work. It started on October 14.

The press-secretary of the Karabakh parliament Geham Bagdasarian [name as received] told SNARK that yesterday after two-day discussions the parliamentarians accepted the deputy statute law. Today the session participants will discuss two other laws: on supplying the deputy's activity and the order of the deputy's recall.

The situation in Karabakh is quiet. According to the reports received from the Karabakh Department of Press and Information, the sides are following the armistice conditions. The armistice will last till November 5.

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Discusses Economy, Ties With Turkey

TA1710192993 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1800 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Interview with President Geydar Aliyev by Erdogan Gungordu in Baku; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Gungordu] Mr. President, the Armenians violated the cease-fire once again two days ago. What are you thinking of doing to throw them out of your land?

[Aliyev] Yes, the Armenians violated the ceasefire. However, I still want to solve this problem peacefully. We will try to solve this problem peacefully.

[Gungordu] I believe that the second important problem facing your country is economic. During our stay here, we discussed this problem with the Azeri people. They expect a lot of things from you in this respect.

[Aliyev] There are great problems in that field. Azerbaijan is now replacing its old economic system with a market economy. I will continue along this path. However, we will be faced with many difficulties on this path. We will try to solve them. How? I do not know. The people are expecting miracles. It is not easy to make miracles, but we will try to fulfill our people's hopes.

[Gungordu] Do you have any thoughts in favor of Turkey?

[Aliyev] All of Turkey's interests will be served. All its problems will be resolved. There are very good relations between the Turkish Republic and the Azerbaijani people and the Republic of Azerbaijan. They are historic ties. Ties of brotherhood. They will continue.

Guseynov Creates 'Special Headquarters' for Security

NC1510160493 Baku TURAN in English 1223 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Baku, October 15 (TURAN)—On the order of the Prime-Minister Suret Guseynov a special headquarters [SH] consisting of the Minister of Defense Mamedrafi Mamedov, Minister of Internal Affairs Vagif Novruzov, and Minister of National Security Nariman Imranov is created.

The press-service of the cabinet reported that the creation of the headquarters is caused by the necessity to withdraw from the population the illegally stored arms, to liquidate the illegal armed units, to struggle with terrorism, to settle the registration of the armed equipment, and to liquidate the shortcomings in this sphere, to improve the coordination of the military and law enforcement ministries.

With an aim to coordinate the ministries, included into the headquarters, it is instructed to create rescue-inquest groups for carrying out the local operations. They will have to carry out only the operations defined by the Special Headquarters (SH).

All the instructions of the SH are compulsory for all the ministries, enterprises and organizations, and have to be implemented implicitly.

The SH have to present reports on its work to the prime minister every month.

To the mind of the lawyers the instruction of the premier is not legal without the ratification of Milli Mejlis. The decree of the premier, in fact, resubordinates the economic structures to the three powerful ministries, and can not be accepted without the agreement of the parliament. The cabinet is not a legislative [as received].

Popular Front Leaders Arrested in Nakhichevan

NC1610144793 Baku TURAN in English 1215 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Baku (October 16) TURAN—Yesterday at 21.00 o'clock one of the leaders of the Popular Front of Nakhichevan Aidyn Gasanov was arrested in his apartment. This information TURAN Agency received by the press-service of Abulfaz Elchibey.

According to information from Nakhichevan, yesterday evening group of policemen came to the apartment of Aidyn Gasanov and demanded his going to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Nakhichevan. As policemen did not show sanctions of the procurator or another documents, Gasanov refused to go with them and put up a resistance. After that policemen have taken A. Gasanov away by force.

Press-service of A. Elchibey reported, at 3 o'clock at night Aidyn Gasanov was transported from Nakhichevan to Baku.

40-year-old Candidate of Science Aidyn Gasanov is one of the founders of democratic movement in Nakhichevan, he is married and has two children.

Baku Presents Conditions for Minsk Group Meeting

NC1610154893 Baku AZERTAC in English 1315 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Baku, October 16 (AZERTAC)—The minister of foreign affairs of Azerbaijan, in his yesterday's letter, informed the chairman of the CSCE Minsk group, Mario Rafaelli, of Azerbaijan's interest in convocation of a conference of the Minsk group. However, the letter says Azerbaijan is considering that the conference should open after complete and unconditional withdrawal of Armenian troops from occupied Azeri territories. The letter was sent in response to Mr. Mario Rafaelli's newly proposed schedule of urgent measures.

In his letter the foreign minister of Azerbaijan expresses his complete bewilderment by the fact that the schedule ignores the problem of Lachin, and points out the fact that the Minsk process started from the efforts taken to solve this problem.

Foreign Minister Gasanov also pointed out the necessity of inserting an item considering withdrawal of Armenian troops from occupied frontier districts of Zangelan and Kazakh in the document.

He expressed concern over fate of about million Azeri refugees and 50,000 Azeris who had been forced to leave Nagorno-Karabakh. According to Minister Gasanov, it is necessary to produce guarantees that will provide safe return of refugees to Nagorno-Karabakh. This item should correspondingly be inserted in documents of the Minsk group.

According to Minister Gasanov, the Armenian party is the one that has repeatedly violated all given commitments, therefore an item about the responsibility of the Armenian party for renewal of hostilities should be inserted in the schedule too.

The necessity of holding a new discussion on the schedule, readiness of Azerbaijan to continue consultations on producing a document which will fully reflect norms of international law and principles of the CSCE. [sentence as received]

Georgia

Fighting With Zviadists Intensifies in Samtredia Area

Attack on Samtredia Repulsed

LD1610040893 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0200 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Georgian government troops have repulsed a new attempt by detachments of Zviadists to attack Samtredia. This is reported by the Georgian Information agency, quoting the joint press-center of the government armed forces. Samtredia is a key railway centers in western Georgia; its fall would pave the way for the Zviadists to reach Tbilisi.

It has remained relatively calm on the approaches to the Black Sea port of Poti and on other lines of confrontation, the Georgian Information Agency reports.

Shroma, Samtredia Attacked

LD1710084893 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Zaza Bilikhodze reports from the headquarters of the state armed forces' press center in western Georgia that at 0550 this morning Gamsakhurdia's supporters carried out a mass attack in the direction of Shroma using considerable manpower and artillery installations.

The revanchists opened fire both on the positions of state forces and the town. At 0600, Gamsakhurdia supporters also opened fire on the town of Samtredia and the state forces deployed there. There, too, heavy equipment and artillery are being used. The town is being shelled, houses have been destroyed, and there are killed both among civilians and the state forces. Battles are continuing.

Shelling Continues; Dozens Killed

LD1710104493 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1000 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Now, let me give you the latest information on the battles that we received from Kutaisi.

This morning, battles started near Samtredia and they are still continuing. Gamsakhurdia's supporters shelled Samtredia, state troops' positions, the railway station, the administration building, and residential houses, from Grad installations, missile launchers, and heavy equipment, killing a great number of civilians. Military equipment received from the north enabled Gamsakhurdia's supporters to launch an attack. Samtredia civilians and hostages from the state forces are being shot at the scene by confederate mercenaries. State troops have now retreated and have been reinforced at the approaches to Samtredia in the direction of Kutaisi. A great number of state troops are under siege. Dozens of civilians and state troops are reported to have been killed.

Samtredia Falls to Zviadists

LD1710122693 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1200 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Forces supporting Georgian ex-President Zviad Gamsakhurdia today took the town of Samtredia. INTERFAX was told at the Georgian Interior Ministry press center that units of the Confederation of Caucasian Mountain Peoples have entered the town with the Zviadists.

Near the town of Khoni, to the north of Samtredia, government forces have gone onto the attack and taken a number of villages. Observers think that the target of the attack is the town of Zugdidi, where Former Georgian President Gamsakhurdia is staying.

State Troops Retreat to Kutaisi

LD1710141793 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] We will start this program with bad news.

According to Zaza Bilikhodze, chief of the armed forces' press center, illegal armed formations have entered the town of Samtredia. After the battles there, Georgian state troops left Samtredia and are now heading for Kutaisi.

Kutaisi 'Properly Reinforced'

LD1710142993 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] We have been in touch with Kutaisi and have been told that the town is properly reinforced. Unfortunately, we do not have access to more detailed information.

Attack on Khoni Repulsed

LD1710213093 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 2050 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] As reported, Georgian Government forces left the town of Samtredia today.

As for the town of Khoni, the opposing side attempted to enter it, but was stopped and repulsed by government forces stationed there.

Shevardnadze in Kutaisi

LD1710214493 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The situation in western Georgia continued to deteriorate yesterday. [passage omitted] The Associated Press Agency reports that the government forces managed to beat off an attack on the [Kopitnari] military airport situated approximately 20 kilometers from Kutaisi. Eduard Shevardnadze has arrived in the town. [passage omitted]

State Troops Withdraw From Khoni

LD1810094093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0837 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] The government troops which on Sunday afternoon launched a counter-offensive in the vicinity of the administrative centre of Khoni against Zviadist units were unable to develop success and were forced to leave the city at 2pm, INTERFAX has been told by the spokesman for the Georgian Interior Ministry.

Earlier Zviadists occupied Samtredia.

At present the government forces are concentrated around the village of Ianeti situated two kilometres of [as received] Samtredia. Additional troops are being airlifted there from Kutaisi and Tbilisi.

'Illegal' Forces Control Khoni

LD1810100593 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0900 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] Illegal armed units of Zviadists, supported by combatants from the Confederation of the Mountain Peoples have taken the town of Samtredia. On 17 October fighting was under way near Kopitnari. According to reports from the Lanchkhuti rayon administration, on the morning of 17 October illegal armed units took up positions near the village of Japana [Guaria Province]. Road links with the rayon center of Lanchkhuti were blocked.

Last night illegal armed units forced their way into Khoni and are now in control of the town.

Today, the mayor of Kutaisi told us that events in Samtredia had not caused panic in the city. The city is well defended, and the normal pace of life has not changed. Kutaisi volunteer forces have been mobilized to help government troops defend the city.

Gamsakhurdia Guarantees Safety of Russian Soldiers

LD1610142493 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1345 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] Georgia's ex president Zviad Gamsakhurdia has refuted a report that his supporters attack Russian troops in West Georgia.

He has released a statement, stressing that two Russian border units "on the territory, controlled by legitimate Georgian authorities are guaranteed total security." "Such an attitude toward Russian troops—the document notes—will continue even after the restoration of legitimate authorities all over Georgia, the legal status of these troops will be determined through negotiations with the Russian government."

Gamsakhurdia also guaranteed "the full safety of Russian servicemen and their families" and called for "respecting their rights."

Abkhazia Denies Support for Gamsakhurdia Forces

LD1710091893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] The authorized representative office of the Abkhazian Republic in the Russian Federation has denied statements by Georgian sources that there supposedly are Abkhazian detachments among Zviad Gamsakhurdia's armed units. The authorized representative office stressed that this did not correspond to reality and was a deliberate and single-minded lie.

Having liberated its territory, Abkhazia's Armed Forces had come out onto the Abkhazian-Georgian border along the Inguri River and, since then, not a single Abkhazian soldier had crossed the border or stepped onto Georgian soil. The armed struggle between Gamsakhurdia's supporters and government troops was an internal affair for the Republic of Georgia, the representative office of the Republic of Abkhazia in the Russian Federation.

Abkhazia Threatens Additional Military Actions

LD1810105093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1014 GMT 18 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchogoleva]

[Text] Sochi October 18 ITAR-TASS—The Abkhazian Defence Ministry today announced its intention to "Take the most effective measures up to an including military operations to clean the Abkhazian territory from the armed formations who fought on the side of Georgia, the ministry's spokesman Valeriy Gumba told ITAR-TASS.

He stressed that the decision was made after these armed groups located in the valley of the Kodori River refused to disarm and leave Abkhazian territory along a special corridor.

"The deadline (for the withdrawal) expired yesterday. Our proposal was not accepted", Valeriy Gumba stressed. He added that military actions on the part of Abkhazia were necessitated by "the threat to civilians in the close-lying villages.

Forces Continue To Fortify Region

LD1710102993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0953 GMT 17 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow October 17 TASS—"The armed forces of the Republic of Abkhazia continue to fortify the eastern border with Georgia along the Ingur River. Strong points and other facilities are being built", a spokesman at the Abkhazian Defence Ministry told ITAR-TASS, pointing out that "over the past 24 hours there have been no changes in the operational situation".

"In Sukhumi and other populated areas, the situation is being stabilised. Security forces ensure normal life in the republic", the spokesman said.

Russia Continues To Supply Power To Abkhazia

LD1710161893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1328 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] Further power supply is reported from Russia to Abkhazia. Moscow cut off electricity supply to the republic following the declaration of economic sanctions after Abkhazian forces resumed fighting on September 16 and took control of the capital Sukhumi several days later.

Power supply resumed on October 16 despite the Russian government's statement the day before that sanctions against Abkhazia would not be lifted until it ceased "human rights violations and ethnic cleansing" and adopted measures to ensure "the return of refugees and to the policy of the Sochi agreements".

Electricity resumed to Gagra and Gudauta regions for six hours a day - four hours in the morning and two hours in the evening, an Interfax correspondent reports. Power supply to Sukhumi is to be supplied from Inguri hydroelectric station in western Georgia after the damaged electricity lines have been restored in the next few days.

Russian Warships Approach Poti To Prevent Smuggling

LD1610175893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1723 GMT 16 Oct 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi October 16 TASS—A unit of the Russian Navy warships came to the roadstead of the Poti Black Sea port in western Georgia today on request of the Georgian leadership. The warships are expected to prevent the smuggling of metal and other cargo to foreign states, including Turkey.

According to the reports reaching here from Poti, various cargo delivered by sea to the town and meant not only for Georgia but also for Armenia and Azerbaijan are being pillaged. Poti is controlled by armed units of supporters of ex-Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

The ex-president supporters use the proceeds to purchase foodstuffs abroad and donate them to residents of western Georgia with propaganda ends. The western Georgia is controlled by anti- government forces.

Admiral Denies Blockade of Poti

LD1710110993 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] In an interview with INTERFAX, Georgian Naval Commander Admiral Aleksandre Dzhavakhishvili declined to confirm reports by a number of media sources that Russian warships have entered the port of Poti. According to the Georgian admiral, one Russian coastal patrol ship on an unknown mission had approached the port on Saturday without the consent of the Georgian Defense Ministry.

Press Service Attacks Russian Media on Abkhaz Coverage

LD1610191993 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1703 GMT 16 Oct 93

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] [no dateline as received] The press secretariat of the head of state has issued an official statement, which says in particular:

"The world public, prominent political figures, international legal and humanitarian organizations, have given their unequivocal assessment of atrocities committed under the guise of tripartite cease-fire agreements, describing them as a genocide and crimes against humanity to be submitted to an international tribunal.

"In a situation like this, one can be only puzzled by the position of some sources of the Russian mass media. This applies, primarily, to television programs Novosti and Vesti, which are methodically advertising the good intentions of the Gudauta group, which, they say, is ready for talks and is diligently restoring a "peaceful life" in the annexed territory. At a time when reprisals and indignities are under way, the TV screen is showing idyllic pictures. Public opinion is being prepared for the reconsideration of realities. The separatists are now described as being ready to live in peace, if not for the Georgian side which is creating obstacles.

"We are aware of the reasons for this unexpected demarche. The mission has been completed and the Georgians were expelled. It only remains to get rid of the economic sanctions imposed by Russia. Under a well-tested scenario, a media and ideological expansion has been launched against Georgia, to compensate for repeated statements by the Russian Government and Foreign Ministry condemning Abkhaz extremism.

"In this connection, the staff of the press secretariat of the head of state protest against and sharply condemn the media policy, which is based on unscrupulousness,

and appeal to international journalist organizations to speak out against the cynical media war, which may result in bloodshed.

Opposition to CIS Membership Remains Strong

MK1510144093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 15 Oct 93 p 1

[Guga Lolishvili report: "Too Many People Are Against CIS, Not Just Ultra-Radicals"]

[Text] A preliminary balance of forces around Shevardnadze's statement on his country's joining the CIS will in all likelihood become clear any day now. The room specially provided by the country's leadership for holding press conferences and news briefings (the oval office on the second floor in the parliament building) has become a rostrum from which leaders of the political parties and parliament factions have been, for a third day running, voicing their position on the matter. The first conclusion that can be drawn at this stage is a sharp upswing in the opposition's activity. Whereas no one is surprised at this surge of energy on the part of the ultra-radical movements—like the Party of National Independence headed by Irakliy Tsereteli (in an interview the other day Tsereteli publicly called for national disobedience)—the move of the Republican Party (10 seats in parliament) to the clear opposition against the main parliamentary force Shevardnadze used to rely on—the National-Democratic Party, which has the majority of seats in parliament—has produced at least a considerable stress in the internal political setup if not a sensation.

Georgiy Chanturiya, the National-Democrat's leader, made a statement the very day after Shevardnadze's return from Moscow, voicing his extremely negative attitude to Georgia's joining the CIS. Before that, Shevardnadze's political course had never been opposed by the National Democrats, who earned the reputation of Shevardnadze's lobby for such a line. The Republican Party too followed in the footsteps of the National-Democratic Party. Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, Republican leader Vakhtang Dzabiradze accused the authorities of an inability to prevent the state's disintegration and to carry through vital economic reforms, stating: "We virtually have no state." In Dzabiradze's words, Georgia should under no circumstance join the CIS because that would mean a stepped-up pro-Russian influence in the country.

In an interview to your NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent, Ivlian Khaindrava, parliament deputy and member of the Republican Party, said that the Republicans' main demand is the implementation of a deep-going economic reform in Georgia. "Even the sluggish land reform has been brought to a halt at the moment," he stated.

At the same time, Shevardnadze has found supporters who stated their agreement with the joining of the CIS. They are first and foremost the Democratic Union faction, the Socialist-Democratic Party of Georgia, and the Greens Party—a very popular political organization in Georgia.

Planned for afternoon on Thursday in Tbilisi was a press conference by the faction of the neutrals, and the Party of National Independence.

In the meantime, analyzing the first results of the statements from political parties, one should note that the opposition forces have an insignificant edge at this moment.

Speaker Goguadze Supports Membership

LD1610084093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0100 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] In an interview with journalists, Vakhtang Goguadze, the chairman of the Georgian parliament, has expressed confidence that deputies will support the decision by head of state Eduard Shevardnadze on Georgia's CIS membership. Goguadze himself, speaking earlier in parliament, had spoken in favor of Georgia joining the Commonwealth. He noted that no exact date for the hearings on the CIS had been set. In his view, this issue will be examined by deputies in November.

Popular Front Head Against CIS

LD1610183393 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1400 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Announcer] ...he [Georgian Popular Front Chairman Nodar Natadze] said that forces opposed to Georgia's entry into the CIS could unite in a national salvation commissariat [as heard]. Answering the next question about an alternative to joining the CIS, he said that [words indistinct]. Here is a recording with Nodar Natadze.

[Begin Natadze recording] If we have an opportunity to hold out for one or two weeks, this period will be enough to establish a new government, which can have the form of a commissariat, for example, as I told you, a national reconciliation commissariat. Then we should restrict what is to be restricted, steer our policies in the right direction and (?win). [sentence indistinct]

Russia has inflicted on us in Abkhazia everything it could inflict; it did the maximum harm. Russia can now aggravate the situation in Tskhinvali—actually, it has done so already—and in two other spots. [passage indistinct] However, nowhere else can Russia deal us a blow as heavy as the one we suffered in Abkhazia. This is because Russia had many legal prerequisites for doing so in Abkhazia, owing to the relative weaknesses in our legal position in Abkhazia. There was an autonomy there. A major propaganda campaign was launched to create the view that it is an Abkhaz land, where, for some reason, we were dominating. [passage indistinct] The same cannot be done anywhere else. Moreover, the

United States and other countries have issued statements saying that they do not recognize the territorial gains made by the Abkhazians. As a result of this, Russia unable to say that Abkhazia is not part of Georgia. Russia agrees that Abkhazia is part of Georgia. If we had been in the CIS, Western countries would not have raised this issue at all. Then Russia would have said that Abkhazia is not part of Georgia.

I believe that we can considerably undermine the effectiveness of a new Russian aggression by making a preemptive statement, at an official, for example, parliamentary level, saying that we are expecting Russian aggression here, there, in Tskhinvali and so on and so forth. This is not an absolute weapon, but it is a weapon. Our absolute weapon is our de jure independence [words indistinct].

We are in an extremely complex situation, but we should not indulge in wishful thinking, pretending that, with our entry into the CIS, this complex situation will be alleviated in any way. Quite the opposite, as soon as Russia has a legal prerequisite to interfere in our affairs, it will use it to the maximum. This is because the CIS is by no means an objective for Russia. It is a means of creating a demographic and geopolitical situation where Russia's domination here is guaranteed, regardless of our attitude and political changes in the world. [end recording]

'Professionals' Replace Anti-Russians in New Cabinet

PM1510125393 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 14 Oct 93 p 3

[Sergey Chernykh report: "Shevardnadze Takes His Leave of Dilettantes"]

[Text] Radical and, you might say, decisive changes have occurred in the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers. Dilettantes have been replaced by highly professional specialists. Particular changes have also affected the power ministries.

Igor Giorgadze, from a family of chekists, has become chairman of the Information and Intelligence Service. While working in Ministry of Internal Affairs structures he created an experienced and mobile special-purpose service with his own hands, literally bit by bit, and in a number of instances with his own money. Specialists were recruited from practically all the republics of the former Soviet Union.

Young General Shota Kviraya has become minister of internal affairs. He passed through the Moscow school. He was involved in setting up the Russian branch of Interpol.

After holding the post of vice premier for less than a month, Irina Sarishvili, leader of the very influential National Democratic faction in parliament, has resigned. A fierce opponent of joining the CIS, this was her way of protesting. A little earlier her husband—Georgiy Chanturiya, leader of the National Democratic Party—had declared that [Georgia] must on no account join the Commonwealth. According to Chanturiya, he prefers a "fine death" to joining the CIS. The leader of the National Democratic Party of Georgia has also resigned from the Commission on Implementing the State of Emergency Regime.

All these changes are taking place quite purposefully: Leaders who held anti-Russian positions are being replaced by professionals who take a perfectly fair attitude to the northern neighbor. In addition, these changes will greatly strengthen Shevardnadze's positions.

Chikvaidze Meets UN Officials in New York

LD1610204693 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1703 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] [no dateline as received]—Georgian Foreign Minister Aleksandr Chikvaidze on an official visit to New York, yesterday [15 October] met Ronaldo Mota Sardenberg, the chairman [president] of the UN Security Council. The minister presented the Security Council chairman with a detailed account of recent events in Abkhazia. He stressed the importance of urgent action by the Security Council, not only in the political sphere, but also in rendering practical assistance for many thousands of refugees.

Sardenberg assured the foreign minister that the Security Council would once again examine Georgian issues at its meeting in a few days, and express its firm position toward the unity of Georgia and its leadership [sentence as received].

The Georgian foreign minister also had a meeting with Russia's permanent representative to the UN, Yuliy Vorontsov, who reiterated his government's position toward the territorial integrity of Georgia. He assured the minister that he would do everything to support Georgia's legitimate demands and their implementation at the UN [sentence as received].

The next meeting was with Under-Secretary General Benon Sevan, who pledged to speed up the process of preparing the documents required for the adoption of a Security Council resolution.

Also yesterday, A. Chikvaidze met Jan Eliasson, the under-secretary general for humanitarian affairs, who said that under UN auspices, Georgian refugees would receive the necessary aid [as received].

In the next few days the minister is expected to meet UN Security Council members and the U.S. State Department leadership.

Defense Minister Opposes Formation of National Guard

LD1510132893 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1201 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Georgia's Defense Minister, Georgiy Karkarashvili, has said that the defeat sustained by the Georgian army in Abkhazia "doesn't mean that the war there is over." "I will continue that war, whether I remain the defense minister or not," he stressed in an interview with an independent TV company.

Government forces are taking no part in the conflict in Western Georgia, Karkarashvili declared. "No concrete task has been set before us," he said. "We have no written order, and without it we might come to face what already happened in Abkhazia - a war was started, but at whose order remains unknown to this day," the defense minister pointed out. However he did not explain who is taking on the units of ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia.

Judging by what he said, some controversy emerged between the defense minister and Georgia's leadership over the past few days. For example, Karkarashvili opposed the idea of restoring the National Guard directly under the Supreme Commander, Eduard Shevardnadze, and not the Defense Ministry. According to the defense minister, "this is a step toward dismembering Georgia's unified army." In addition, Karkarashvili opposes the forming, on the basis of the information and intelligence service, of a Security Ministry that will have at its disposal armed units which do not take direct orders from Georgia's Defense Ministry.

In addition, the defense minister is against Georgia's joining the CIS.

National Guard Leader Urges Unity To Save Country

LD1710120893 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1000 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Interview with Major General Jemal Chumburidze, chief of the main department of the Georgian National Guard, by unidentified reporter on 17 October; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Chumburidze, we have received from unofficial sources alarming information from Samtredia and Khoni that battles are still continuing in Samtredia and that half of the town has been destroyed. What information do you have?

[Chumburidze] I admit that the situation in Samtredia is complex. Battles are continuing. Today's battles in Samtredia are on a large scale. You know already that the town is being attacked and shelled, but your information that Samtredia has fallen is false. We must do everything to restore the situation that we had there before.

All this is due to the fact that there is no general plan for the defense of the town. There are many groups there—there are Mkhedrioni forces, Interior Ministry troops, volunteers, and all sorts of armed people—but there is no single force. We must put an end to this. There must be a unified leadership and a unified army. On this note, I would like to make a statement:

The situation in Georgia today is extremely tense. We have lost the war in Abkhazia with Russian armed [word indistinct] and the separatists. Georgians are at each other's throats. There is no unity in Georgia, and not everybody is worried about Georgia's fate. Thousands of refugees are cursing us and calling us names for our short-sighted and adventurous actions. Georgia's riches and resources are being squandered and exterminated. In these circumstances, we must pluck up our courage and take care of our troubled motherland.

Therefore, a unified army must be created. We think it is appropriate to create one more unit within the armed forces, which have already been split into smaller units and subunits. The National Guard has been, and will remain, part of Georgia's armed forces. Guard units must be united within the Defense Ministry forces and must carry out orders of the Defense Ministry's general staff. Therefore, the guard, as a unit, will remain as a [word indistinct] corps of the Defense Ministry and will carry out orders of the commander-in-chief and the defense minister.

I call on all units to unite within the framework of the Defense Ministry. Let us fight together for the welfare of Georgia. There is no time now for blowing our own trumpets, we must have a unified leadership and must be subject only to the Defense Ministry. We must achieve success and save Georgia.

Former Tbilisi Mayor Appointed Ambassador to Germany

LD1610175593 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1703 GMT 16 Oct 93

[Text] By decree of the republic's head of state, Nikolay Lekishvili has been appointed mayor of the city of Tbilisi.

The former city mayor, Konstantin Gabashvili has been given the job of Georgian ambassador to Germany.

Estonia

Laar Blames Party's Losses on Faulty Election Law

WS1510100193 Tallinn BNS in Russian 1234 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Tallinn, 13 October—Mart Laar, Estonian prime minister and chairman of the national united party "Isamaa," admitted in an interview with BNS that his party has suffered "serious losses" due to certain faults in the Electoral Law for local governments.

Laar was referring to the confusion resulting from the definition of a permanent place of residence. Many local election commissions have refused to register certain candidates because they have no permanent residence in a given area. Meanwhile, a government resolution revoked the soviet-based system of registration in Estonia several months ago.

"This contradiction shows that our system of lawmaking has some problems that must be overcome. At the same time, 'Isamaa' does not dare claim that the Electoral Law contradicts the Constitution," said Laar.

The Estonian Social Democratic Party and some politicians voiced protests over nominees' registration on the basis of permanent residence before the election campaign.

According to the "Isamaa" chairman, the election campaign in Estonia has deviated from the norm, which affects the very foundation of the Estonian state.

"The election campaign has involved such social forces, for example, police prefects, that would not have had the right to participate in elections under normal circumstances. Most electoral commissions have engaged in politicking as well," said Mart Laar.

According to the prime minister, "Isamaa" is more open to attacks now because it is one of few Estonian political forces that is running for the elections under its own name.

"Unfortunately, in most constituencies, the opposition are not going to the elections under its own name. Therefore, definite political forces will not assume responsibility for the development of the situation in most areas. This rules out all possibilities for classic political competition," said the "Isamaa" chairman.

In Laar's opinion, the most interesting results should be expected in Tallinn, where most parties are running under their own names, and a lot of well-known personalities are running as well.

"It will be interesting to see how such people as (Endel Lippmaa), (Tiit Vehi), Arnold Ruutel and, why not, (Mariu Lianik) will deal with problems of communal utilities and drainage at the Tallinn City Council," said M. Laar.

Expects Party Gains at Local Polls

WS1510133393 Tallinn BNS in English 1946 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] TALLINN, Oct 14, BNS—Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar predicts that his party, Pro Patria, should gain the largest representation in this month's elections to local councils.

Laar told BNS today that this didn't necessarily mean that the party would win the elections or a majority in the councils.

The prime minister expressed his regret that no real competition between the ruling coalition and the opposition started before the elections. He blamed the absence on the opposition forces' attempts to keep their party names out of the elections for regional and municipal councils.

"No definite political force will be responsible for the further development of many regions," he said. "This rules out classic political competition."

Laar claims Pro Patria was also easier to attack since it is one of the few political parties that moved toward the local elections under its own name.

Denies Conflict in Fatherland Party

WS1510130693 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0755 GMT 15 Oct 93

[From 15 October HOMMIKULEHT, p 4]

[Text] Friday, October 15—Prime Minister Mart Laar gave an interview to the ETA, linking the rumours of an impending split in the "Fatherland" party and his resignation from the post of the Premier with the election campaign of the opposition. "It is a new and original form of election struggle," Laar commented. He stressed his amazement at speculations about Kaido Kama or Illar Hallaste attempting to undermine his position. A new coalition agreement will be completed in the nearest future, he said.

"The "Fatherland" team is united and there will be no split. No changes are foreseen," the Premier told ETA, adding that any possible changes in the government will not be connected with conflicts within the "Fatherland". The local elections are not meant to clarify relations between the government coalition and the opposition, Laar concluded.

Local Elections May Shake Up Ruling Coalition

MK1610121593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Oct 93 p 3

[Ilya Nikiforov report: "Elections May Tip the Balance of Forces Appreciably. Citizens and Non-Citizens Will Vote]

[Text] Local government elections will take place in the republic on 17 October. Unlike parliament, local soviets

were elected long before the restoration of Estonia's state independence and they still remain as vestiges of Soviet rule.

Under the Estonian Constitution, not only citizens of the republic but also aliens living in it and stateless persons are entitled to vote in local elections. This article became the subject of bitter debates this past summer. Urban residents in the northeast and public organizations representing the Russian-speaking population thought that the article provided for both active and passive [actual suffrage and eligibility] election rights. However, its interpretation by the Party of National Independence, which gained the upper hand in parliament, says that aliens may take part in the elections but that they cannot be elected. The latter right belongs only to citizens. Noncitizens were supposed to register in a specified time frame— from 12 July to 20 August. As a result, the composition of the electorate for the imminent elections is as follows. All in all, 870,000 persons (170,000 of whom are "aliens") will be able to come to the polls. In Tallinn, nearly 90,000 out of the 260,000 are noncitizens. In Tartu, the ratio of noncitizens to citizens is 1 to 10. In Narva, for that matter, there are as little as 6,856 citizens out of the 32,000 voters. The situation is even worse in Sillamae—there are only 552 citizens out of 9,227 voters.

As a result of negotiations between the Representative Assembly and the government, the latter agreed to act on what it had promised to Max van der Stuel, CSCE high commissioner for ethnic minorities affairs, namely—to grant Estonian citizenship on a priority basis to those noncitizens who run for local soviets. For reasons that are so far unclear, however, this promise has only been acted upon in Tallinn, while Narva was left whistling for it.

The upcoming elections may appreciably alter the political situation in the republic, that is, it may shake or even split the ruling coalition and strengthen the opposition. Which is why the ruling coalition parties so vigorously went to work to gear up for the elections and nominated long lists of candidates. The opposition did not act as promptly, and its candidates, found on the lists in the capital and in the republic's northeast, are absent, for example in Tartu, Estonia's second largest city. Membership in the Party of Independent Royalists has shot up, absorbing in the election campaign people from the "usual" parties. All at once, the mayor of Tartu became a Royalist.

Parties that have become lists of blocs compiled in accordance with some local interests and consisting of entrepreneurs from the capital or the regions who are disenchanted with the policy of today's authorities, as well as social movements like the Pensioners Union, have become very serious contenders.

Estonia's Russian inhabitants have formed their own bloc only perhaps in Tallinn. Their ticket was formed on the basis of the Russian Democratic Movement of Estonia, and it stands quite good chances of success.

As has been noted in the Estonian press on repeated occasions, voters' activity is not going to be very high, while it is supposed that noncitizens will be more active. Without stretching the point too much, one can suppose that the best results will be scored in urban centers by local election blocs rather than by the ruling coalition parties. The opposition stands better chances in the uyezds and volosts. This will of course entail a regrouping of forces in the State Assembly.

Local Election Turnout 'Greater Than Expected'

LD1710194593 Helsinki Suomen Yleisradio Network in Finnish 1700 GMT 17 Oct 93

[Text] The Estonians have voted in local elections today. According to the chairman of Estonia's Central Electoral Committee, the turnout has been greater than expected. Over 40 percent of those entitled to vote in Tallinn had cast their vote by this afternoon. In places, as many as 80 percent of non-Estonians have cast their vote. Russians and other national minorities are now allowed to vote, unlike in the parliamentary elections last year. However, the Russians have not been allowed to nominate candidates themselves.

A total of nearly 3,500 city and municipal deputies are to be elected in the Estonian local elections.

Laar Laments 'Passive' Voters

WS1810093293 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0904 GMT 18 Oct 93

[From 18 October RAHVA HAAL, PAEVALEHT, POSTIMEES, p 1, 3]

[Excerpts] Monday, October 18—Elections to the local governments took place on Sunday [17 October]. The overall amount of candidates was 8,788 for 3,427 seats, with an average 2.6 candidates per seat. The elections did not take place in the town of Paldiski and the borough of Jarvakandi—in the latter case due to lack of candidates, whose number was smaller than that of seats. The competition was hardest in Tallinn with 11 candidates per seat.

The participation was quite passive among the Estonian citizens. That was especially true of Tartu where the preliminary percentage reached only 34.3 of the overall number of voters. The non-citizens, in contrast, were very active. The percentage of voters having voted by 0200 Sunday was 42.84 in Tallinn, 23.03 in Tartu, 31.18 in Parnu, but 49.62 in Narva and 48 in Sillamae, according to chairman of the National Election Commission Avo Blankin. The percentage in Sillamae was even higher—55.73. A number of instances were reported of voters not entered in the registration lists. Head of the former Narva town council Chuikin was reported as predicting that over a half of the new council would carry on the traditions of the old one.

The elections will exert a positive influence on the internal situation in Estonia, irrespective of the results,

President Lennart Meri said on Sunday. "I am quite sure that when the Estonian citizens, as well as the non-citizens will realize that they bear the responsibility and can advance out life positively with their work and especially their intelligence, a major step will be made towards democratic state," Meri commented.

Prime Minister Mart Laar expressed his dissatisfaction with the passivity of the voters, especially the Estonian ones, in Tallinn. The people fail to understand that the local governments decide a lot in their lives, he said. Laar expressed his opinion that the passivity was caused by the lists of candidates based on other principles than political parties—the voters did not understand who they were electing. However, the commentators stress that the overall influence was the opposite—the voters chose individual candidates rather than parties. A number of them were reported as complaining over insufficient information on individual candidates. [passage omitted]

According to preliminary results, reported by the KUKU commercial radio station, the Coalition Party was the most successful in Tallinn, winning 18 seats. The Russian Democratic Movement won 17 and the "Revel" electoral union, consisting of mostly reactionary-minded Russian candidates—10 seats. The "Raeklubi" electoral union won 10 seats, the Centrist Party 5 and the "Fatherland" also 5 seats. There are 64 seats in the Tallinn City Council.

Government Breaks Off Trade Talks With EC in Brussels

LD1510124593 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1800 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Excerpts] The Estonian Government delegation broke off trade talks with the EC on textiles, which had begun in Brussels on 11 October. This was reported to ETA by Priit Kolbre, head of the Foreign Ministry's Foreign Economic Policy Department. The talks were broken off. The EC sees the would-be agreement only as setting restrictions on quantity and quotas on textiles and the Estonian delegation [words indistinct] under certain [word indistinct] trade conditions. The EC objected to proposals to improve and amend the agreement and the Estonian delegation did not have an opportunity to [words indistinct] the talks. The EC delegation did not have authority to amend the text of the agreement. [passage indistinct] The Estonian delegation knew that the EC holds fairly rigid positions but it was the first time they faced such a rigid procedure. [passage indistinct]

PRC Deputy Foreign Minister Tian Continues Visit

WS1410124993 Tallinn ETA NEWS RELEASE in English 1724 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Tallinn, Oct 13—China is hoping Estonia will continue pursuing the policy of recognising the Peoples' Republic of China as the sole representative of Chinese people, the visiting Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister, Tian Zengpei [name as received], told Estonia's Defence Minister Juri Luik at their meeting on Tuesday [12 October].

Tian Zengpei and Luik, who acts as Estonia's foreign minister, agreed that cooperation in business and trade has been very successful while the only difficulty has been the distance between the two countries. China expects to solve the problem by using tax- free warehouses in neighbouring countries.

In only a year, the number of Estonian-Chinese joint ventures has increased to 59 from 12. Estonia's import to China in January-June 1993 increased to 19.5 million kroons from 304,000 last year. China's export to Estonia increased to 17.6 million kroons during the same period while the total in 1992 was 11.9 million kroons.

Luik and Tian Zengpei also discussed Russian troop pullout and the issue of the nuclear training reactor in the former Soviet submarine training base, Paldiski, northwest Estonia. The parties also discussed Estonia's membership fee in the United Nations Organisation. China, being a member of the Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency, can help Estonia in these matters.

Opposition Politicians Warn of 'Increasing Centralism'

WS1810093393 Tallinn ETA NEWS BULLETIN in English 0904 GMT 18 Oct 93

[From 18 October PAEVALEHT, p 3]

[Text] Monday, October 18—Twelve opposition politicians made a statement warning against increasing centralism in the political life in Estonia and the concentration of power and decisionmaking in the hands of a decreasing number of persons. The opposition consultative and cooperation council pointed out that the president is elected by a "group of a couple of dozen of persons" and the elected county heads will be replaced by government- appointed governors, "who will be subordinated to the Interior Minister." They also referred to the recent amendment enabling five ministers to make decisions in the name of the entire government. The power to make decisions must be widely dissolved, the 12 politicians stressed.

New Radio Station Starts Broadcasting in Tallinn

LD1810105193 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0700 GMT 18 Oct 93

[Text] A fourth radio station—(Glavradio)—based on private capital will start broadcasting today in Tallinn on a frequency of 97.8 MHz. The station's owner is (Mike Woodinger), a U.S. entrepreneur who owns a string of commercial stations in the United States, Ukraine, and Lithuania. According to (Glavradio) Editor in Chief Artur Raidmets, the new station's hallmark will be

tolerance and friendliness. In the choice of music the emphasis will be on golden oldies and classics.

In conclusion one can say that three privately-owned radio stations are presently broadcasting in Tallinn. They are Kuku Radio, Radio Tallinn, and Radio Sokk. In addition there is also the state radio with its own commercial channel, Radio 2.

Latvia

President Assesses First 100 Days in Office

WS1510084793 Riga LETA in English 1216 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Riga, October 14 (LETA)—President of Latvia Guntis Ulmanis shared Wednesday [13 October] his opinion with press officials about his first 100 days in the presidential office.

The basic issue of his political activity Guntis Ulmanis specified the unity of the Baltics, the fact proved by his visits to Estonia and Lithuania as well as visiting Latvia by the presidents of these states. According to the president's view it is only the base that has been set on currently for the cause of the Baltic states unity. It is firm however and makes one feel optimistic about it. The president characterized as positive and crucial his numerous meetings with Latvia's ambassadors abroad and foreign diplomats in Latvia. Guntis Ulmanis believes they gave him every opportunity to schedule first lines on the blank page of his political career's onset, as he himself considers it. "And with the help of journalists I hope to have the blank page filled in the nearest future", said the head of the Latvian state. During his visits to the U.S. and Austria and during his meeting with Pope the president has gained rich experience.

Touching upon the obstacles in presidential work Guntis Ulmanis admitted his poor knowledge of foreign languages to be a considerable one. "As an official I will always speak Latvian", said Guntis Ulmanis, "though poor knowledge of foreign languages prevents me from free communication during private meetings and informal talks", he noted. Guntis Ulmanis indicated that president should provide guarantees for peace and accord and thinks this is the main reason why president must be elected nation-wide. "I will make every possible effort to justify confidence the people has shown me and I hope a next president to be elected by means of direct elections", said Guntis Ulmanis.

Saeima Factions Back Citizenship Referendum

WS1310150893 Tallinn BNS in English 1050 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] RIGA, Oct 13, BNS—The Saeima faction Consent to Latvia became the second faction in the Latvian parliament to support the idea of a referendum on the country's citizenship issue.

The faction Movement for Latvia's National Independence presented a draft decree last week that provides for the referendum.

Consent faction Chairman Edvins Kide said Tuesday [12 October] if the Saeima fails to choose one of the proposed drafts on the country's citizenship law, a referendum of Latvia's existing citizens should resolve the issue.

The Consent faction submitted a draft citizenship law Monday that offers naturalization privileges to persons who resided in Latvia for at least 10 years before May 4, 1990, the date Latvia declared independence.

Members of the faction emphasized at the press conference that many items of this draft reflect a version presented by the leading coalition. The main difference is that the leading coalition only wants to grant citizenship within the boundries of a quota system.

Saeima Commissions To Debate 5 Citizenship Bills

LD1410164793 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1144 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] The Latvian Saeima approved October 14 the presidium proposal to hand over for consideration of standing commissions the bills of citizenship and on the status of non-citizens drafted by the Accord to Latvia faction. A similar decision was taken concerning the bill on the "zero option" in terms of citizenship proposed by the Equality faction and turned down by parliament two weeks ago.

Thus under consideration of the Saeima commissions are five bills on citizenship, one of which is to be approved in principle. The bill proposed by the factions Fatherland and Freedom and the Movement for Latvia's National Independence practically deny the right of former Soviet citizens who were born and live in Latvia to receive the republic's citizenship. The ruling coalition involving the factions Peasants' Union and the Latvian Path propose to establish naturalization quotas given 10-year qualification of settlement in Latvia before May 4, 1990, and the knowledge of Latvian. The Accord to Latvia faction also backs the 10-year settlement qualification and the knowledge of Latvian but it adheres to the principle of quotas only in relation to those who arrived in Latvia after the above date.

The other two factions did not say they would propose their bills. Their leader say that the Union of Christian Democrats backs the concept of the movement for national independence of Latvia and of Homeland and Freedom, while the Democratic party faction stands for the version proposed by the Accord to Latvia faction.

Citizens of Latvia constitute today 66 percent of the republic's population.

Troop Withdrawal Talks With Russia To Resume 18 Oct

LD1410182693 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Interstate talks between Latvia and Russia are to resume in Moscow on 18 October, the BNS [Baltic News Service] was informed today by a representative of the Latvian delegation, Aivars [indistinct surname]. The principal subject of the talks remains, as before, coordination of the agreement on the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Latvia. The stance of the Latvian delegation regarding the dates of the troop withdrawal has not changed. Latvia is still demanding a troop withdrawal from Latvia by the end of this year. It is envisaged that the talks will last for three days.

Birkavs, Greek Ambassador Discuss Cooperation

WS1510084493 Riga LETA in English 1216 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] Riga, October 14 (LETA)—Greece as the E.C. chairman from January 1, 1994, is supportive of signing the free trade agreement between the E.C. and the Baltics. Ambassador of Greece to Latvia Emanuel Kalpadaki stated this meeting Wednesday [13 October] with Latvia's Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs. The development of the cooperation between the two countries has been said as rather slow as yet. Valdis Birkavs and Emanuel Kalpadaki had a discussion on the possibilities of extending bilateral ties. To promote this process both states are to conclude the already finalized agreements on navigation and air traffic. Valdis Birkavs proposed to start working out agreements on non-imposition of double tax and protection of investments, necessary for strengthening the two countries economical ties. Greece from its part pledged its support for this state in the Russian troops withdrawal.

Birkavs, Sweden's Bildt Discuss Russians' Withdrawal

LD1510163893 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] [First announcer] Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs is continuing his official visit to Sweden. Included in the delegation he heads are Minister of Internal Affairs Girts Kristovskis, Minister of Transport Andris Gutmanis, and other officials.

[Second announcer] After Birkavs' meeting with Prime Minister Carl Bildt of Sweden, there was a news conference. There the Latvian prime minister announced that in talks with Swedish Prime Minister Carl Bildt the main issue discussed was the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Latvia. The hope was expressed that progress will be observable in the talks on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia. Birkavs mentioned as one of the main themes in the talks the solution of the problem of the Skrunda radar station. Russia does not want to leave it, even after the putative withdrawal of its army from the territory of our country.

[First announcer] Latvian representatives have also turned to the Swedish Government with a request for help in solving the issue of order and security in Latvia's ports. Thereby the emigration of criminal elements from Latvia to the Scandinavian countries would be curtailed.

Danish Foreign Minister Petersen Arrives on Visit

LD 210202993 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 12 Oct 93

[Text] Today, Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen, arrived in Latvia on an official visit. In the morning he met Latvian Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs. As Petersen pointed out, this visit is proof that Danish policy remains unchanged relating to the Baltic countries, to which great support has been given ever since the restoration of independence. Petersen was also interested in the withdrawal of the Russian Army from Latvia. In this context, he said that Denmark could finance the construction of housing in Russia.

Preparations Under Way for Nov Military Exercises

LD1410195293 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] The administration of the Latvian military forces and commanders of service units and a group of officers from the National Defense Academy, led by Dainis Turlajs, commander of the Defense Forces, travelled to Adazi today to coordinate and finalize plans for the defense forces' exercises due at the beginning of November.

Taking part in the exercises will be a battalion from the headquarters of the Defense Force, a battalion from the Intelligence Service, a company from the National Defense Academy, a company of recruits from the [word indistinct] training center, and if weather conditions are favorable, the exercises will include aviation. Also involved in the plans are the Home Guard and the special task force of the State Security Service.

The purposes of the exercises are to supplement the military (?experience) of the units and subunits of the military forces in the field, and engage in cooperation with the State Security Service and the Home Guard.

Lithuania

Slezevicius Urges Landowners Not To Support Strikers

WS1510124493 Tallinn BNS in English 1658 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] VILNIUS, Oct 14, BNS—Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius asked the republic's land

owners not to support the demands and threats for a general strike by agricultural producers.

In an interview published Thursday [14 October] in the newspaper TIESA, the head of the government agreed that the country's agriculture situation is difficult. The reprocessing industry still owes farmers a large sum of money, and the country is still feeling the effects of a poor start in land reforms, said the premier.

In Slezevicius' opinion, however, the demands to establish "unreal" prices for agricultural products would return the country from a market economy to socialism.

Slezevicius reported that the government was taking measures to solve the problems of agricultural producers. It abolished agricultural exports and set high tariffs for imports to slow the flow of agricultural products from abroad. The debts of meat processing and dairy factories to peasants have been reduced threefold, he said.

A general strike, the prime minister said, would be ruinous for the economy and can be useful only for separate parties or politicians who are willing to sacrifice the government's position to achieve their goals.

Calls Farmers' Demands 'Unrealistic'

WS1510133493 Tallinn BNS in English 1946 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Text] VILNIUS, Oct 13, BNS—Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius claims that a dialog with the organizers of a general farmers' strike is virtually impossible.

The premier said that categoric and unrealistic demands were made during his meeting with the strike leaders.

"We cannot abandon the basic principles of forming the market and will not return to state regulated prices," Slezevicius told reporters Thursday [14 October].

Price regulation would only accelerate inflation, he said. The premier noted that individual income has been steadily increasing during the past four months.

Slezevicius announced the government's intention to increase salaries and pensions again in November, and to not only compensate for inflation, but to be ahead of it.

The premier and Minister of Agriculture Rimantas Karazija claim that the government took some compromise measures that should protect the country's farmers. Those steps included canceling restrictions, licenses and customs duties for exports and raising tariffs on imported sugar, meat, butter, potatoes and grain.

Slezevicius admitted that the step does not stimulate the stability of prices on the internal market, but it encourages Lithuanian farmers to compete with Western producers. It is impossible to liberalize imports because local farmers "cannot yet compete with Western products," he said. The premier noted that import rules are more liberal in Estonia, but its agriculture is in a more difficult situation. He added that the European Community, the United States and a number of other countries defend their markets and their own producers.

Karazija said that the farmers demanded the markets purchase their products in full, which is also unrealistic. "The government cannot make commercial structures purchase agricultural production," he said.

The minister said that the state bought and already paid for 288,000 tons of grain, while this year's harvest reaches around 2.25 million tons. The state can buy another 580,000 tons for contract prices, he said.

Meanwhile, around 425-450 million lits would be needed to purchase this year's harvest in full, but bank loans reach only around 73 million lits.

Chief Election Commission Chairman Resigns

WS1410124493 Tallinn BNS in English 1932 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] VILNIUS, Oct 13, BNS—The chairman of Lithuania's Chief Election Commission [CEC] resigned from his position airing charges that Lithuania has yet to respect its election laws and raise its legal consciousness.

Chairman Vaclovas Litvinas told the LIETUVOS RYTAS newspaper that the CEC got pressure from all sides during election campaigns because all the participants in the election process interpreted the laws to satisfy their own interests.

Election results would be completely different if the parliament had to be elected today, he said; centrist forces would win more seats. But he added that early elections could only follow a social explosion.

Litvinas tendered his resignation to the parliament, which will discuss it next week. The chairman told the newspaper that he feels tired and is unsatisfied with his current financial situation. He now intends to continue his career as a commercial lawyer.

Litvinas was appointed as CEC chairman in July 1992; he served as commission vice chairman from December 1989. Observers note his efforts to avoid politics in the commission's activities.

Parliamentary Committee Chairmen Resign Posts

WS1510152193 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1225 GMT 15 Oct 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 354]

[Text] 15 October 1993—Chairman of Seimas human and civic rights committee MP Mindaugas Stakvilevicius asked to be sacked from the post on Thursday [14 October] after the committee report to the parliament.

Stakvilevicius motivated his resignation with weariness from the job in former Supreme Council and the present Seimas. But he ordered another reason as well: "I have

never been disappointed by Seimas and the people who should maintain the concord and whose duty is to do everything to avoid instigation of nations".

Stakvilevicius is the third chairman of a parliamentary committee to resign from the post. Early in the autumn session, chairman of Economic committee Kazimieras Antanavicius resigned and a week ago, chairman of National security committee Gediminas Kirkilas did the same.

Brazauskas Meets With PRC Vice Foreign Minister

LD1410134793 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Russian 1200 GMT 14 Oct 93

[Excerpts] President Brazauskas received Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Tian Zengpei today. It was noted during their meeting that great opportunities exist for both countries in developing beneficial trade and economic cooperation. Both sides positively assessed cooperation in science and technology. [passage omitted] Brazauskas received an invitation to visit China from its political leadership.

Attention was paid during the meeting to the wish by the Lithuanian president to get acquainted with the experience of economic reform in China. Opportunities will be created for Algirdas Brazauskas to visit one of the free economic zones. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Denmark

LD1410093093 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] Lithuania and Denmark have agreed to continue consultations in accordance with the five-plus-three formula—the Nordic countries plus the Baltic states.

According to Lithuanian Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys, this is a very concrete form of cooperation. The Lithuanian foreign minister spoke after yesterday's negotiations with Danish Foreign Minister Niels Petersen.

The ministers signed a bilateral agreement to prevent double taxation which, according to minister Petersen, will help Lithuania integrate into Western Europe. According to the Danish minister, cooperation within the framework of the Council of the Baltic Sea States is being successfully developed. Niels Petersen noted that the regional integration of the three Baltic states does not contradict a wider process of European integration.

Speaking of the possibility of increasing the number of NATO members, the Danish foreign minister stated that currently it would be wise for NATO to be cautious. The guest added that now is a time for discussions but not for hasty decisions. According to Petersen, this is the stance not only of Denmark, but also of many NATO members.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Singapore

WS1210155393 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1329 GMT 12 Oct 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 351]

[Text] Vilnius, Oct 11, ELTA—Information and press department of Lithuanian Foreign Ministry informed ELTA that diplomatic relations between Lithuania and Singapore had been set up. Singapore is the 83th state that Lithuania has diplomatic relations with.

Prime Minister Says Russia Only Source of Energy

LD1210221093 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1753 GMT 12 Oct 93

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: by correspondents Andrey Pershin, Andrey Petrovskiy, and Vladimir Shishlin; edited by Boris Grishchenko]

[Text] Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius regards Russia as the only source for the import of fossil fuels, most of all oil.

Speaking on national radio on Monday, he turned down the demands of some politicians, above all from the opposition, to curtail cooperation with the Lukoil concern of Russia, supplying to the Mazeikiai oil refinery about 6 Mn tons of crude, 20 percent of which after processing stays in Lithuania. In his words, the pleas to give up cooperation sound "more than strange" now when this cooperation meets the refinery's oil requirements for about 50 percent.

The Premier also recalled that the republic had been trying to speed up the design and construction of an export-import oil terminal on the Baltic Sea coast and of an oil pipe-line that would connect the terminal with the refinery.

Slezevicius reported that even last year it was really possible to start feasibility studies on the construction projects.

He reported that thanks to government and national bank efforts, extra credits have come from the European Community and from a German commercial bank. The credits will allow to buy fuel and repay the debt on gas and nuclear fuel and thereby resolve the problems of energy financing.

In Slezevicius' words, the country is better prepared for winter than in previous years. More than 85 percent of the tanks are filled with fuel oil, bought at lower prices. The purchase of oil continues.

Government Reduces Gas Prices, Increases Heating Prices

WS1210154693 Vilnius ELTA in Lithuanian 1131 GMT 11 Oct 93

[Text] Effective 16 October, the Lithuanian Government has adopted a decision to slightly reduce the average price of gas for enterprises, organizations, and other consumers. The new price will be $90 per 1,000 cubic meters. It will be converted to litai according to the official exchange rate against the dollar.

Enterprises that have ruble deposits in banks of the Russian Federation will be able to settle accounts with their suppliers according to the ruble exchange rate against the dollar, as established by the Russian Central Bank.

Beginning 1 November, residents will pay 382 litai for 1,000 cubic meters of gas used for preparing food. The current price is 295.5 litai.

The price for heating will increase. Residents will pay 0.5 litas a month for heating 1 square meter until 1 February 1994, and 1 litas after this date. Those consumers who have gas meters will pay 0.05 litas per square meter during the entire heating season.

Brazauskas: 'Strict' Response to Journalist's Death

WS1410125193 Tallinn BNS in English 1717 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] VILNIUS, Oct 13, BNS—"The criminal world and its bosses have overstepped all limits by raising a blood-stained hand against free speech," Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas said in a Oct. 13 statement on the assassination of a well-known Lithuanian journalist.

As previously reported, Vitas Lingys, one of the publishers and editors of the second largest Lithuanian newspaper, RESPUBLIKA, was shot outside his Vilnius home Oct. 12. Publications and officials say he died for publications that expose the criminal world.

"With all my power I declare that this challenge to the state and its democratic nature will be followed by a strict and just response of law institutions," Brazauskas said.

The president notes that terrorists and criminal leaders are mistaken if they think that the public and authorities can be intimidated.

Brazauskas expressed his hope that Lithuanian journalists "will continue to help the society and the state from stumbling in the sacred and merciless struggle against evil."

Some sources say the president struck his fist on the table in an outburst of anger during a special meeting called at the president's office Tuesday [12 October].

Commission for Border Delimitation Meets in Moscow

WS1410124393 Tallinn BNS in English 1932 GMT 13 Oct 93

[Text] VILNIUS, Oct 13, BNS—The Lithuanian-Russian commission for border delimitation completed its two-day meeting in Moscow Wednesday [13 October].

The commission focused on setting boundries between Lithuania and the Kaliningrad region of the Russian Federation, the Lithuanian Embassy in Moscow reported. Sea borders, which are much more problematic, were not discussed thoroughly. A protocol of the meeting was signed.

The Lithuanian delegation was led by Vladislovas Domarkas, the vice minister of foreign affairs. Gari Chmykhov, the deputy head of the Kaliningrad region's administration led the Russian experts.

The commission's next meeting is scheduled for early November in Kaliningrad.

U.S. To Help Guarantee Nuclear Plant Operation

LD1510211393 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2000 GMT 15 Oct 93

[Text] Lithuania and the United States have agreed to cooperate in the sphere of safe nuclear energy exploitation. That was announced after the visit of the chairman of the U.S. nuclear control commission, Ivan Selin, to Lithuania. American and Lithuanian officials agreed that the United States would help Lithuania guarantee safe operation of the Ignalina nuclear power plant.